

Hon. Chris Bentley  
Attorney General  
720 Bay Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
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Sent by FAX: (416) 326-4007

Dear Mr. Bentley,

It has come to my attention that the Ministry of the Attorney General has plans to make significant change to the current model of Court Reporting in the Province of Ontario.

I am not a Court Reporter but I do have a great deal of concern over the proposed changes to the model and I am asking you to reconsider your position on this issue.

I don't believe it is in the best interests of anyone connected to the justice system to have the proposed changes implemented. Obviously someone who is not involved in the proceedings in court will have a much more difficult time producing a transcript from a recording. Court Reporters have a direct relationship with the people who are present in the courtroom and therefore they are more familiar with the patterns of speech of the participants who appear, to say nothing of the complex legal procedures which occur on a daily basis. Who could possibly produce a better transcript than someone who is part of the proceedings on an ongoing basis and who has accountability to the participants?

As everyone is aware, this is a time of extreme economic hardship for many people in this province. Court Reporters are in large part single mothers who rely on their transcript income to feed their children and pay their bills. In other cases the income of the Court Reporter in the family may well be the only income the family has to count on to survive. Why would you strip them of the income they earn typing transcripts and put them into a position where they may be forced to lose their homes, declare bankruptcy or rely on food banks?

Your Ministry has the opportunity to work with the Court Reporters of this province to improve the services provided to the stakeholders in the judicial process. These are hard-working, dedicated employees who have skills and abilities that have never been recognized. It is time for the Ministry of the Attorney General to take the necessary steps to see that the Court Reporters are treated as the valuable, knowledgeable and skilled professionals that they are.

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Name (please print)

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Date

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Signature

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City