



Family Law

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YOUR EX DOES!



Roxanne Shank
LAWYER

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I heard that a friend of mine and his girlfriend were each fined \$850 for driving around together in Barrie. This isn't true, is it?

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Yes, I have it on good authority that it IS true. Welcome to Covid 19 enforcement in 2021. Premier Ford told us on September 17, 2020 that he was prepared to "throw the book at you, if you break the rules", and here we are, with Covid 19 infection rates escalating and a provincewide shut down.

On March 27, 2020 the Province of Ontario granted power to Municipal Law Enforcement Officers to enforce Orders issued by the Province under the *Emergency Management Act*. On October 1, 2020 the Province of Ontario issued the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to Covid 19) Act*, or ('ROA').

How are these fines possible? The ROA empowers Officers to issue stiff fines and penalties, including a Court summons, to anyone breaking Covid 19 rules. Anyone who violates an Emergency Order could face a fine of \$750 or up, to \$100,000/individual, a minimum fine of \$10,000 for hosts or organizers of parties, and a

whopping \$10 million/Corporation.

Socially you are supposed to associate with the people you are living with and no one else. There is an exception for a person who lives alone to be permitted to visit a second household [but not more than one household.]

You are not supposed to be out of the house unless you are pursuing something 'essential'- you are buying groceries or medicines, or going to and from work. Joyriding with your girlfriend is out on two counts- it is nonessential, and you are associating with someone from a different household.

So the old refrain still stands: Stay home, Stay safe, and Connect virtually.

Your friends at Shank Law.



Phone: 705-435-5055
Email: lynn@shanklawoffice.com
Web: shanklawoffice.com