



**AUTHORIZED COURT TRANSCRIPTIONIST
ASSOCIATION of ONTARIO**

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Arkley Professional Services
Authorized Court Transcriptionists for Ontario
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We are writing regarding the fees payable to Arkley Professional Services by ACTs.

There are many ACTs voicing concerns arising with the costs ACTs are required to incur in order to continue to produce Court transcripts particularly, in these trying times, we are all experiencing, during this current COVID-19 pandemic.

In view of this loss of income we are writing to request that the fee charged to all Authorized Court Transcriptionists by Arkley Professional Services, in order for the ACTs to be listed on the Registry of Authorized Court Transcriptionists, be reduced and/or waived.

The fee is now \$425 per year. The original fee charged as of 2014 was \$325 per year. The fee went up to \$425 last year.

In view of the following facts, we are requesting that this fee be reduced to a more affordable rate for the Authorized Court Transcriptionists.

1. Fees for Court transcripts – regulation – has not increased for virtually 26 years, but for the increase in 2014, of \$1.10 per page, when the new transcript model was implemented. This increase in the fee does not cover the extra costs ACTs must now incur due to the change in the transcript model. *see letter requesting regulation change to increase fees for Court transcripts and reduced fee payable to Arkley Professional Services, copied to Arkley Professional Services when sent to the Ministry of the Attorney General recently.
2. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many courts have not been running, which means Court transcript orders have been lowered. Many ACTs are having financial hardship due to the decrease in transcript orders received.
3. Electronic copies of transcripts are being accepted by many ordering parties and used for filing applications with the Ministry, as certified hard copies are not accepted or required, due to the ongoing CORONAVIRUS pandemic. Due to this change, copies of transcripts are not being ordered in many cases, this has caused a further loss of income to ACTs as they are not being paid for hard copies, for which they were in the past.



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These issues with the fees for Court transcripts and the yearly fee ACTs are compelled to pay Arkley Professional Services must be taken into consideration due to the fact that the livelihood and ability for the ACTs to continue to work producing certified Court transcripts is being impacted to the point where many ACTs have lost so much income, they are compelled to stop producing transcripts and to seek employment elsewhere - and at this time, employment opportunities are questionable. It would be a shame for the Ministry to lose experienced and newly authorized ACTs.

Taking into consideration the fact the Arkley fee has increased from the \$325 per year to the \$425 per year, and was already at a high rate for many ACTs, there is concern that the ACTs will simply not be in a position to stay in business these days, having that fee lowered or waived at this time, could be the difference between an ACT staying in business and on the registry or the ACTs simply having to drop off the list and go out of the business of producing certified Court transcripts, due to the real inability to afford the fee Arkley charges ACTs to remain on the registry.

Therefore, we are requesting that this rate charged by Arkley Professional Services be lowered and/or waived from the \$425 per year, down to a much more affordable rate, less than the \$325, in order to assist ACTs during this current economic uncertainty.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

The Authorized Court Transcriptionist Association of Ontario

~~maintaining and guarding the integrity of the record~~

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