

Changes to Family and CFCSA services

Further to the January 13, 2009 Message to the Tariff Bar, this Notice to Counsel confirms the following changes to the Family and CFCSA tariffs and related services:

- The administration fee is eliminated for all Family and CFCSA referrals with a date of assignment after March 31, 2009.
- Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) referrals will not be issued for clients who apply after March 31, 2009.
- LSS will not consider requests for Extended Family Services received after March 31, 2009 if they result from DRS referrals.
- LSS will apply stricter standards to approvals for Extended Family Services referrals resulting from Emergency Services referrals.
- Reduced Family Duty Counsel services will be implemented sometime after March 31, 2009.

Administration fee ending

The administration fee is eliminated from the Family, Family Appeals, CFCSA, and CFCSA Appeals tariffs for referrals with a date of assignment after March 31, 2009. You can continue to bill the administration fee on Family, Family Appeals, CFCSA, and CFCSA Appeals referrals with a pre-April 1, 2009 date of assignment.

No new Dispute Resolution Services (DRS)

DRS referrals will not be issued for clients who apply after March 31, 2009. You must bill for all work performed and disbursements incurred on DRS referrals with a pre-April 1, 2009 date of assignment within the six month billing rule or by March 31, 2010, whichever is sooner. LSS will not pay accounts received after March 31, 2010.

Reduced Extended Family Services

Further to the January 13, 2009 Message to the Tariff Bar, we would like to clarify that not all Extended Family Services referrals will be eliminated. Rather, LSS spending on Extended Family Services referrals will be significantly reduced, resulting in the following changes:

DRS referrals: Opinion letters received after March 31, 2009 requesting Extended Family Services resulting from DRS referrals will not be considered. Extended Family Services referrals resulting from DRS referrals with a pre-April 1, 2009 date of assignment will continue, and the usual billing rules set out in the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs* will apply to those referrals.

Emergency Services referrals: Requests for Extended Family Services resulting from Emergency Services referrals will continue to be considered, but LSS will apply stricter approval standards to ensure spending does not exceed the available budget. The usual billing rules set out in the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs* will continue to apply to any referrals issued.

Reduced Family Duty Counsel services

The Family Duty Counsel program includes five different services: Supreme Court, Provincial Court, Advice Lawyer, Conflicts referrals, and Case Conference referrals. Services are provided in many BC communities. Service reductions will be implemented sometime after March 31, 2009. We will notify you shortly if you are directly affected.

Questions, comments, and suggestions

As always, LSS welcomes your feedback. Please direct any questions about the changes to the Family and CFCSA tariffs and their implementation to lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca.

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