

Urgent Notice re: Family Referrals

On February 27, 2002, the Legal Services Society (LSS) issued a *Notice to Counsel* that, among other things, announced changes to the family tariff scheduled to take effect on March 15, 2002. This notice was given in anticipation of immediate changes to the Legal Services Society Act by the provincial government.

It has now become apparent that these changes will not occur immediately. Accordingly, the announced changes to the family tariff have been deferred pending introduction and passage of the new legislation.

Family referrals will continue to be issued in accordance with the existing family coverage guidelines until the legislation is changed. Opinion letters requesting approved services referrals may be submitted to the Family Case Management Program in accordance with the current policy until further notice. The March 15, 2002 deadline for submission of opinions no longer applies.

As a result of funding reductions and the uncertainty of the timing of legislative changes, the Legal Services Society may have to terminate cases already in the system. Should this be necessary, LSS is committed to providing as much notice to counsel as possible on anticipated changes to the tariff and plans to provide at least 90 days' notice for any terminations.

Mark Benton
Director of Tariff