

Pilot Project — Robson Square Family Duty Counsel

LSS has established a new family duty counsel pilot project at Robson Square, in co-operation with the Family Justice Services division of the Ministry of Attorney General. The purpose of the project is to provide assistance to family litigants with low incomes who do not qualify for assistance under our new coverage guidelines.

The project is co-housed with the family justice counsellors in Room 151. In addition to providing traditional duty counsel services, duty counsel will provide advice and assistance on days they are not in court to litigants who have referrals from family justice counsellors. Duty counsel will refer litigants to family justice counsellors if they have not already seen one or if they can benefit from further family justice services.

Duty counsel will assist with both Family Relations Act matters and CFCSA matters. They will —

- attend case conferences,
- appear in court on behalf of unrepresented litigants to speak to simple applications or urgent ex parte matters, and
- assist and advise on document preparation and settlement negotiations.

The project also assists unrepresented litigants by providing a computer for public access to the LSS Family Law website at <http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca> and the Attorney General's Family Justice website at <http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/family-justice>. Using these sites, litigants can access court forms and instructions on how to complete them, court procedures, and basic family law information. A range of educational print material is also available.

Open house

You are invited to attend our Family Duty Counsel Project Open House on Monday, December 16, 2002 in Room 151 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

We thank the many lawyers who applied to be on our roster of duty counsel for this project. The response was tremendous and your support for this initiative is appreciated.