

Extended Family Services Tariff

In response to the Attorney General's announcement of \$4.6 million in additional funding to support family legal aid services in British Columbia, LSS is pleased to be able to fund extended family services for clients at greatest risk.

Effective March 1, 2005, counsel who believe their client's case warrants extended family services may submit an opinion letter requesting this coverage. Extended services will allow counsel to bill up to 40 additional hours for attendance and preparation time.

Eligible cases

To be eligible for extended services, the client must have a current referral with an assignment date of January 1, 2004, or later, and the case must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- It is a high conflict case with significant contested issues involving sexual, mental, or physical abuse of the client or his or her children.
- There is significant involvement with the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- The opposing party is unreasonably litigious and is using the justice system to continue a pattern of abuse.
- There is a significant risk of the client being alienated from his or her children (for example, the children are likely to be permanently removed from BC).
- Failure to continue the case may leave an abused client or his or her children at risk or without security.
- There is an outstanding property or spousal support issue where failure to proceed may result in significant harm or injustice to the client or his or her children.

Opinion letters and billings

Submit your opinion letter questionnaires, including updated financial information and relevant pleadings, by fax to the Manager, Tariff Services at (604) 681-7963.

Please remember to —

- submit a completed Family Billing Form — Final Results Report with your final account — LSS will compare the results to assess whether the additional hours made a significant difference to the level of service provided and increased your ability to achieve positive results for your client; and
- bill up to the maximum permitted but record the actual number of hours spent as specified in your time sheets — LSS will use this information to determine whether the increased hours compensate you fully or partially for your time.

LSS will evaluate this program in the next year to determine whether extended family law services should be continued or modified.

For further details and a copy of the opinion letter questionnaire, go to the LSS website at www.lss.bc.ca and click on For Lawyers — Forms and Resources.

James Deitch
Manager, Tariff Services