

Limited Scope Family Services

The Legal Services Society (LSS) is pleased to announce that it is implementing a new Limited Scope Family Services tariff effective May 16, 2005. This is in response to the Attorney General's announcement of \$4.6 million in additional funding for family legal aid services.

Coverage

This program “unbundles” family services so counsel can provide a limited number of clients (about 500 per year) with up to 14 hours of assistance in complex Supreme Court matters. These referrals cover services other than court attendance but permit attendance at judicial case conferences. Services may include —

- providing general legal advice including options and case strategy;
- helping clients prepare pleadings and reviewing affidavits and correspondence;
- negotiating with opposing parties or helping clients negotiate;
- helping clients draft separation agreements, offers of settlement, minutes of settlement, or consent orders;
- referring clients to other resources such as self-help kits, family justice counsellors, or mediation;
- providing mediation support;
- providing legal research and analysis;
- coaching clients to represent themselves in court; and
- representing clients at judicial case conferences.

Important

- Clients who receive referrals under this program are not entitled to additional assistance through the Family Tariff (Extended Services).
- Counsel must disclose the limited nature of their referral in compliance with Rule 10, Chapter 10 of the Professional Conduct Handbook. A sample limited scope retainer letter is available at www.lss.bc.ca/For_lawyers/online_resources.htm.

Eligibility

Limited Scope Family Services referrals are available only if the client —

- has an issue that is not covered by an Emergency Services referral and the case must be litigated in Supreme Court,
- meets the LSS financial eligibility guidelines for legal representation,
- is unable to deal with the matter using other resources, *and*
- will likely suffer a significant injustice if assistance is not provided.

Disbursements

- Clients must pay their own filing fees. If they are unable to do so, counsel may help them make an indigency application using a self-help kit.
- The Disbursements for All Legal Aid Tariffs does not apply. Counsel may bill a block disbursement fee of \$20 once per referral.

- For more information, see www.lss.bc.ca or call Sherry MacLennan at (604) 601-6017. For online self-help kits, see www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca.
- LSS plans to conduct an evaluation of these services to determine the effectiveness of this program. Please submit a Family Billing Form — Final Results Report with your final account to aid in this evaluation.

Attached is a copy of the revised Family Tariff (Limited Scope Services) tariff items. This revision is also available at www.lss.bc.ca under “For Lawyers-Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs — What’s new.”