



Extended Family Services and CFCSA Tariff items reinstated

LSS is pleased to announce that we are reintroducing Extended Family Services for clients with high conflict family cases and the CFCSA Tariff items for consensual dispute resolution and collateral issues.

Extended Family Services — Eligible cases

Effective February 9, 2010, counsel who believe their client's case warrants Extended Family Services can submit an opinion letter requesting this coverage. To streamline the authorization process, Extended Family Services will now be provided as a standard allocation of hours. This will allow you to bill general preparation and attendance time. The standard allocation of hours will be available only once per referral, and you will be expected to conclude the case within the hours provided.

To be eligible for Extended Family Services, the client must have a current referral and continue to qualify for legal aid, but requires assistance beyond the standard legal aid referral. Hours available under Emergency Family Services should have been (a) reasonably used to address the issues that entitled the client to Emergency Family Services, and (b) as fully used as is reasonable for the case.

Authorization of Extended Family Services is subject to a merit test, available budget, and the following criteria:

- (a) There are significant contested issues involving sexual, mental, or physical abuse of the client or the client's children,
- (b) The opposing party is using the justice system to continue a pattern of abuse,
- (c) There is significant risk of the client being alienated from his/her children,
- (d) The client or children may be left at physical or psychological risk if coverage of the case is discontinued, and/or
- (e) Resolution of custody/access issues will have a significant positive impact on the relationship between the client and his/her child or the environment in which the child is raised.



Extended Family Services — Opinion letters and billings

LSS will compensate counsel's preparation of a submitted opinion letter. Please refer to the Family Tariff section of the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs*.

For further details and a copy of the updated opinion letter questionnaire, go to the LSS website at www.lss.bc.ca and click Lawyers → Forms & questionnaires. Submit your opinion letter by fax to the Manager, Tariff Services, at 604-681-7963.

CFCSA Tariff items — Consensual dispute resolution and collateral issues reinstated

Effective immediately, lawyers with new and existing CFCSA referrals can bill consensual dispute resolution and collateral issue items if they have not already been billed on the referral. For details, please refer to the CFCSA Tariff section of the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs*.

LSS welcomes your feedback. Please direct any comments to lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca.

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