



Backgrounder

October 11, 2005

Financial eligibility guidelines: Legal representation

Anyone whose net household income (after allowable deductions) and assets fall below set limits is financially eligible for a referral to a lawyer, as long as their problem is covered by LSS rules.

Effective October 12, 2005, the limits are:

Household size	Net household monthly income	Personal property exemption (All cases)
1	\$ 1,349	\$ 2,000
2	\$ 1,888	\$ 4,000
3	\$ 2,427	\$ 4,500
4	\$ 2,967	\$ 5,000
5	\$ 3,506	\$ 5,500
6	\$ 4,046	\$ 6,000
7 or more	\$ 4,585	\$ 6,000

LSS will continue to apply its current policies governing income sources and income deductions.

A limited number of **income sources** are excluded from net monthly income totals – e.g., the BC family bonus, child tax benefits, GST credits, and tuition or book fees under federal or provincial student loans.

A limited number of **deductions** can be made from the net monthly household income totals. These include daycare expenses, court fines if the applicant or her/his partner faces imprisonment for failure to pay, medication that a doctor says is required for the applicant or her/his dependents that the applicant must pay for personally, and child or spousal maintenance payments that are required by court order or separation agreement and that the applicant or her/his partner is actually paying.

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Former guidelines

From February 9 – October 11, 2005, the financial eligibility limits for legal representation were:

Household size	Net household monthly income	Personal property exemption <i>(All cases)</i>
1	\$ 1,304	\$ 2,000
2	\$ 1,804	\$ 4,000
3	\$ 2,112	\$ 4,500
4	\$ 2,516	\$ 5,000
5	\$ 2,862	\$ 5,500
6	\$ 3,208	\$ 6,000
7 or more	\$ 3,554	\$ 6,000