



In This Issue ▶ ▶ ▶

Vendor list frozen, Criminal lawyers' listserve, Mediation in child protection cases, E-billing: Duty/Circuit counsel accounts, Billing tips, Holdbacks eliminated, Community service awards

Vendor list frozen

LSS is implementing a new financial system in September. As we prepare for this, we will be unable to revise lawyer information on our computer systems. This means that from August 23, 2005, to September 7, 2005, additions and changes to phone numbers, addresses, or areas of practice will not be formally entered on the list. In some circumstances, this may briefly delay issuing referrals. If you have advised LSS of a change of address using the forms on our website, cheques will be manually redirected to you. You should not see any disruption.

Criminal lawyers' listserve

Lawyers who agree to accept 12 or more legal aid referrals in the next 12 months can now have their enrolment fee for the Trial Lawyers Association of BC Criminal Defence Litigation Group listserve paid by LSS.

To sign up, fax a completed application form to LSS at (604) 682-0979. Application forms are available on the Online resources page of the LSS website at www.lss.bc.ca/For_lawyers/online_resources.htm (For Lawyers — Online Resources — Forms). This program is made possible with financial support from the Law Foundation of BC.

Mediation in child protection cases

The Surrey Court Project, which piloted early mediation in CFCSA proceedings, has demonstrated real benefits for many clients, and evaluators have noted high client satisfaction with the process. Following the CFCSA "New Directions" conference in March, we were advised that all Director's Counsel have been encouraged to use mediation. LSS supports the use of mediation in appropriate CFCSA cases. The CFCSA tariff includes provisions that facilitate CFCSA mediation throughout the province. If you are meeting obstacles in getting appropriate CFCSA cases referred to mediation, please contact LSS at helpdesk.familyPF@lss.bc.ca. The society is working to make mediation an effective service in CFCSA cases. Your feedback is appreciated.

E-Billing: Duty/circuit counsel accounts

Reminder: You can now use E-billing to submit duty counsel and circuit counsel fee and disbursement accounts. For further information, please go to our website at <https://www.lss.bc.ca/ebilling>.

Billing tips

- When you receive an extended family services referral, it automatically replaces your original emergency services referral. Please submit your emergency services account within six months for all services rendered up to the start date on your extended services referral. If you require additional authorization, for instance to respond to new interim applications, please contact the Managing Lawyer, Tariff Services by fax at (604) 681-7963.
- Using up-to-date forms to request prior authorization for disbursements or transcripts will help us get you what you need faster. Current forms are available on the Billing and authorization forms page of the LSS website at www.lss.bc.ca/For_lawyers/billing_forms.htm.

Holdbacks eliminated for all tariff billings

As previously announced, holdbacks were eliminated for all tariff billings received on or after June 24, 2005. Payments of accounts held back this fiscal year were made July 27, 2005. The total paid was approximately \$520,000.

Community service awards

Private bar tariff lawyer Lorianna Bennett of Kamloops is one of five lawyers who received a community service award from the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch (CBABC). This is the highest honour given by the CBABC in recognition of community involvement and contributions outside of the practice of law. Ms. Bennett was recognized for her work in community fundraising.