



In This Issue ▶ ▶ ▶

Termination of consensual dispute resolution and collateral issues items (NTC #68); Extended Family Services items suspended; Tariffs — revised; Interpretation services; Family maintenance enforcement committal proceedings; Bursaries; Tips from the Tariff Helpdesk

Termination of consensual dispute resolution and collateral issues items (NTC #68):

The pilot CFCSA tariff for consensual dispute resolution meetings and assisting clients with collateral issues will end **October 1, 2009**. Accounts for these items must be submitted by November 1, 2009. See Notice to Counsel #68 for details. Counsel who attend collaborative meetings may use any available general preparation time for these services. The CFCSA tariff items for mediation remain unchanged and the Family tariff consensual dispute resolution items remain in effect.

Extended Family Services items suspended

Effective immediately, LSS will not issue further authorizations for Extended Family Services (EFS) referrals. The volume of EFS authorizations issued in the last two years has exhausted the available budget for this service. All existing EFS authorizations will be honoured. LSS will only consider requests to extend existing EFS authorizations where this is required to protect the professional obligations of counsel. Counsel with existing Emergency Services referrals should not submit opinion letters seeking EFS authorization. These will not be considered. LSS continues to assess various options which may permit the reintroduction of EFS.

Tariffs — revised

The July 15, 2009 revisions to the Tariff Guide are posted on the LSS website at www.lss.bc.ca/lawyers/tariffGuide.asp. Check out the Message to the Tariff Bar for a list of the changes made.

Interpretation services

LSS introduced a new rate (and code) for interpretation services provided after **July 15, 2009** by certified interpreters. The new rate is billable up to \$35 per hour, to a total of \$350 without specific authorization. The rate remains at \$25 per hour for non-certified interpreters. When billing the certified

rate, counsel is responsible for ensuring interpreters meet LSS certification guidelines. Certification documents must be provided upon request. LSS recognizes certification through membership status with the Society of Translators and Interpreters of BC (STIBC), completion of the Vancouver Community College Court Interpreter Program, and/or completion of a recognized interpreter certification program.

Family maintenance enforcement committal proceedings

Coverage for respondents in committal proceedings where there is a risk of jail has been eliminated to align with the elimination of Category 1 adult offences under criminal coverage. Exceptions may be made in some cases, such as where the client has a significant mental or physical disability which renders the client incapable of representing him or herself.

Bursaries

Lawyers who accept legal aid referrals are eligible for a discount on CLE courses. To request a course discount, e-mail lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca. For more information about CLE courses, go to their website at: www.cle.bc.ca.

Tips from the Tariff Helpdesk

- When authorized, transcripts are billed directly to LSS by the transcript service provider.
- When submitting a request for extra fees, please ensure your request is received within six months of the last date of service to the client or two months from the duty counsel attendance date.
- Please inquire about an account only when the account is over 30 days old. It takes time for us to review and respond to your account inquiries. The more inquiries we receive, the less time we have to work on processing accounts.