



In This Issue ▶ ▶ ▶

Tariff changes, Limited scope referrals, Vendor Application and Change Form, CLE courses,
Update your links to the LSS website

Tariff changes

LSS is continuing its commitment to tariff renewal with five significant changes to the legal aid tariffs that will take effect October 1, 2005. These changed/new tariff items will compensate you for:

- administration costs incurred by accepting legal aid referrals (through a flat fee payable per referral),
- preparation of opinion letters for appeals,
- preparation of FRA applications required to resolve CFCSA proceedings,
- visiting clients in custody, and
- multiple information guilty pleas.

Details of these changes are included in Notice to Counsel #47, which will be distributed this weekend.

Tariff renewal began in February 2004 with the tariff review. A number of common concerns and themes were identified by lawyers and other stakeholders during the review. LSS began addressing those concerns earlier this year by eliminating holdbacks and improving family tariff services.

These changes complement other quality assurance initiatives, many of which have been supported by funding from the Law Foundation, and provide a range of resources to tariff lawyers, from CLE case digest access to a new expert database on the LSS website.

Limited scope referrals: Filling in the gaps

The Supreme Court limited scope family referrals program extends LSS services to clients who do not qualify for other legal aid assistance. Clients often do not qualify because their issues are property division or support variations. This program will help clients better prepare to represent themselves. Many of these cases are being actively litigated, which may require creativity in how you can best help.

If you are offered a limited scope referral, remember that your client's only other options are duty counsel or pro bono assistance. You are not expected to go on record. Determine how best to help your client represent him or herself in litigation if you cannot help reach a settlement. In some cases, this will involve reviewing the client's documents; in other cases, you

may wish to prepare documents for the client. Some cases will involve coaching your client on how to set the case for trial and best present his or her evidence. You can provide up to 14 hours of assistance.

Send the client back to intake to be assessed for an emergency services referral only if circumstances change so much that your client has a new issue that fits regular coverage policies. One example is when there is a risk of violence or other harm that arose after the client first applied for legal aid.

Vendor Application and Change Form

If you are planning to change your contact details (address, phone, fax, firm name, etc.) or change the office from which you currently receive referrals, please use the Vendor Application and Change Form to advise LSS of your new information. To request the form, e-mail lssvendorinfo@lss.bc.ca or helpdesk.finance@lss.bc.ca or call (604) 601-6111. Or download the form from our website at: www.lss.bc.ca/For_lawyers/private_barvndrnubr.htm. Use this form also if you are a new lawyer who wants to register and receive an LSS vendor number.

CLE courses — Lawyers' discount

CLE programs are available at a discount for lawyers who accept 12 or more LSS referrals in a year. Upcoming courses of interest include Family Law Boot Camp — October 27 & 28, 2005. See <http://www.cle.bc.ca/> for course details.

Update your links to the LSS website

Recent updates to the LSS website have resulted in a change to our page names. These now have an ".htm" suffix instead of the ".asp" suffix. For example, www.lss.bc.ca/For_lawyers/tariff_guide.asp is now www.lss.bc.ca/For_lawyers/tariff_guide.htm.

File names for our PDF files have also changed, so if you have links to these files, you will need to return to our site to find them again and renew your links. You may also need to renew your browser bookmarks/favourites links to our site.

The LSS website is being restructured to make it easier to use. We'll be adding many exciting new features in the months ahead.

Thanks for your patience and co-operation!