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Everything is now e-billable

Thanks to an e-billing system upgrade last week, you can now bill all of your disbursements through e-billing. The changes allow you to provide the specific details we need when you bill for experts, and eliminate the need for you to send us receipts. There's no need to use paper billing for *anything* now — fees or disbursements!

You'll find the changes in the middle of the disbursement form, under Hourly Experts. Click whether you're billing for one or two of the following:

- psychologists
- psychiatrists
- specialists
- general practitioners
- blood alcohol experts
- custody and access reports
- private detectives and investigators
- country experts
- interpreters
- translators
- mediators
- paternity testing
- travel costs for witnesses

In the note box, provide the information requested, and submit your accounts. If you need assistance, please call our helpdesk at **604-601-6155** or e-mail helpdesk.tariff@lss.bc.ca.

Upgrading a summary offence to indictable is easy to do through e-billing

If you have a referral for an information where the highest offence was summary but one or more offences proceed by indictment, you don't have to contact the referring office to have your referral changed. It's easy to do this through e-billing.

When billing online, on the first screen of a criminal account, just above the offence date, simply upgrade the LSS level of offence by selecting 'Yes' for the question "Was the maximum sentence on this information greater than six months jail?" On the 2nd screen you can then bill at the indictable rate.

Billing tips

Trial Confirmation Hearings

Under the old Criminal Tariff, Trial Confirmation Hearings under the Criminal Caseflow Management rules are not billable as pre-trial conferences. To be billable, a pre-trial conference has to be convened

under section 625.1 of the *Criminal Code*. The simplified Criminal Tariff eliminates this common billing error.

Conditional sentencing orders

To complete your account when the sentence received is a conditional sentence:

1. Enter the original offence, offence date, and Information number.
2. For the hearing stage, select Sentencing.
3. As the result, select Conditional sentence order.

To complete your account when the service provided is a breach of conditional sentence:

1. Enter the original offence, but for the offence date, use the date of the breach.
2. For the stage listed, select sentencing and record the result (e.g., 14 days jail).
3. Bill at the level of the original offence.

Update — CFCSA Tariff simplification

We're continuing to work on a simplified CFCSA tariff. A significant revision to the model is outlined in an updated consultation paper posted to our website. The revised model takes into account feedback we received earlier this year, and is more aligned with the simplified Family Tariff. We encourage you to review the consultation paper and provide feedback. We anticipate implementing the simplified CFCSA tariff within the next two months, and will provide further details closer to the implementation date.

LSS and BCGEU agreement ratified

The LSS and BCGEU have ratified the collective agreement for April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2012.

Bursaries for CLE courses

LSS offers bursaries to lawyers to attend CLEBC courses relevant to legal aid practice. Some of the upcoming courses include Family Law Bootcamp (Oct 22 & 23) and Family Law Mediation (Nov 29, 30 and Dec 1). To be eligible for a bursary, you must have less than five years call and agree to take a minimum of 12 referrals in the coming year.

To apply, e-mail lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca indicating your call date and the course you're interested in. For lawyers who don't qualify for a bursary, a 25% discount is available.