



Coverage for criminal administrative offences to be reinstated December 8, 2010

Effective December 8, 2010, the Legal Services Society will expand the new, simplified Criminal Tariff to include standard coverage for all clients facing charges that formerly fell under the Category 1 tariff. Funding for this new coverage is a direct result of the society's long-term strategy to reduce operating costs and to refocus funding on services.

New Administrative level

The current simplified Criminal Tariff has three levels of offences: Summary, Indictable, and Major. The former Category 1 offences are currently included in the Summary level, but coverage is only available for adults with serious mental or physical disabilities and for youths.

The tariff will be amended by adding a fourth offence level — Administrative — with new block fees for all applicable tariff items. All former Category 1 offences (except for unlawfully at large or escape charges) will be moved into this new level and coverage will be expanded to include all financially eligible clients who meet standard coverage criteria (e.g., risk of jail). The Administrative tariff rates will be higher than under the former Category 1, but lower than rates under the Summary level. The Administrative rate will apply for all referrals with a date of assignment on or after December 8, 2010, including referrals for youths and adults with serious mental or physical disabilities.

Referrals, billing, and payment

To make this coverage available to our clients as soon as possible, LSS will begin issuing referrals for outstanding administrative charges and accepting accounts as of December 8, 2010. Payment on these accounts may take longer than usual, however, while we complete the necessary changes to our account processing systems. Please consider submitting accounts for Administrative offences separately from other offences until this implementation is complete. We anticipate all accounts to be current by the end of January 2011.

For more information

The new tariff guide will be posted on the LSS website at www.lss.bc.ca under Lawyers — LSS Tariffs on December 8, 2010. As well, a Notice to Counsel will be sent out on December 3, 2010, outlining the rules for the new coverage. As always, your feedback is appreciated. If you have any comments, please email them to lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca.

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