

## **Criminal early resolution contract**

LSS is pleased to announce that it's expanding the scope of criminal coverage and eligibility to a new group of clients.

Effective May 15, 2019, we'll introduce a criminal early resolution contract (CERC) where you may provide non-trial resolution services to clients who do not qualify for a criminal standard contract for representation but who are within \$1,000 per month of the standard financial eligibility threshold. Clients don't need to face a risk of jail upon conviction to be eligible for this service.

The contracts will provide you with the full range of non-trial tariff items in order to manage the case based on the client's particular issues and circumstances.

Criminal early resolution contracts will:

- include all tariff items set out in the standard criminal representation tariff except preliminary hearing and trial fees;
- include all disbursement items;
- have a 90 day stop date and a bill by date 60 days after the service stop date;
- include travel authorization where applicable; and
- be monitored for demand, and will be evaluated after one year.

LSS will begin issuing criminal early resolution contracts to lawyers on May 15, 2019.

For more details, see a [summary](#) of the services.

Be alert to your ethical obligations with a retainer that's limited in scope. We strongly recommend disclosing the limited nature of the contract in compliance with Chapter 3.2–1.1 of the Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia. Provide a limited representation retainer letter to clients receiving this service.

The updated Criminal chapter of the *LSS Tariffs* is now available on the [LSS website](#) at [legalaid.bc.ca](http://legalaid.bc.ca) (under Lawyers — LSS Tariffs) and in LSS Online under Resources.

As always, we welcome your feedback regarding the *LSS Tariffs*. If you have any comments, please email [lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca](mailto:lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca).

Heidi Mason

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