

## Criminal Tariff Updates During COVID-19

### Introducing a Provincial Court Pre-trial conferences item in the Criminal Tariff and amendments to the Visiting clients in custody items in the Criminal, Appeals and Immigration Tariffs

#### Pre-trial conferences

Pursuant to the Provincial Court of BC Practice Direction [CRIM 12](#), Legal Aid BC is introducing a *Pre-trial conferences* item to the Criminal tariff to compensate counsel for these pre-trial conferences.

- The *Pre-trial conferences* item is billable once per information when a pre-trial conference is convened pursuant to the Provincial Court Practice Direction [CRIM 12](#) and you prepare for and attend a conference before a judge to meet your obligations under the Practice Direction.
- If pre-trial conferences on more than one Information are held before the same judge on the same half day, counsel may not bill for each conference separately. The block fee may only be billed for one conference.
- Counsel must provide the conference date.
- Pre-trial conferences are billable at the following block rates:

	Administrative	Summary	Indictable	Major
For service dates on or after May 4, 2020	<b>\$245.13</b>	<b>\$298.13</b>	<b>\$430.63</b>	<b>\$662.50</b>

## Visiting clients in custody

Following the temporary changes introduced in [Notice to Counsel #106](#), Legal Aid BC is making the following amendments to the *Visiting clients in custody* item:

- *Visiting clients in custody* items in the *Immigration and Appeals* tariffs will also be temporarily billable when counsel takes instructions from their client in a correctional or detention facility by telephone or video.
- *Visiting clients in custody* when taking instructions from a client in a correctional or detention facility by telephone or video is not billable on the same half day with any other tariff items.

## Transition rule for contracts

The *Pre-trial conferences* tariff item will be added to active criminal standard contracts that have not yet reached their service stop date. Effective May 4, 2020, counsel may bill for pre-trial conferences attended on or after this date.

If you are required to attend a pre-trial conference and the tariff item does not appear on your contract, please submit an authorization request via the Lawyer Portal.

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

Heidi Mason,  
*Vice-President, Legal Advice and Representation*

May 1, 2020

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## Questions or comments?

Contact our Lawyer Support team:

- Call 604-601-6155; 1-888-401-6206 (no charge), or
  - Email [lawyer.support@legalaid.bc.ca](mailto:lawyer.support@legalaid.bc.ca)
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