

Psychologists' Fees

In July 2001, the Legal Services Society issued a Notice to Counsel advising of an increase to expert witness fees effective October 1, 2001. Our intention was to ensure that our rates match those paid by the Criminal Justice Branch (CJB) of the Ministry of Attorney General. However, we have recently been advised that our differential rates for psychologists are inconsistent with those used by the CJB. Therefore, we have made the following adjustment retroactive to October 1, 2001:

	Code
Psychologists and psychiatrists	
– Psychologists — Level 1	
Up to \$97 per hour, including preparation and court time	1626
Up to \$67 per hour for travel time	1735
– Psychologists — Level 2	
Up to \$114 per hour, including preparation and court time	1626
Up to \$69 per hour for travel time	1735

The clarification we received from the ministry indicates that level 1 psychologists have less than 2 years' experience and are treated as associate members of the College of Psychologists of British Columbia. Level 2 psychologists have 2 or more years' experience and are fully registered members of the College.

We apologize for any inconvenience this has created for either counsel or experts who have been retained since October 1, 2001. Please resubmit any billings that have not been paid at the appropriate rate to the attention of the Manager of Tariff Services, and we will make the necessary payment adjustment.

Mark Benton
Director of Tariff