



Notice to Counsel

June 24, 2024, #124

Extended Contract Service Dates

Immigration contracts

Legal Aid BC (LABC) is advising that effective June 27, 2024, LABC will be extending the standard duration of an Immigration Standard (refugee) contract from one year to two years. Going forward, all new standard immigration contracts will be issued with a service period of two years. Bill-by dates will continue to be set at six months after the service stop date.

For most previously issued and still active Immigration contracts, LABC will also be taking steps to automatically update the service period of the contract to a maximum of two years from the original service start date. This extension will be applied to all active contracts with service start dates on or after January 1, 2023, and a service period of less than two years. Bill-by dates will also be amended accordingly.

If counsel have a contract that falls outside these parameters and the matter is still ongoing, a contract extension can be requested via authorization request and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Immigration appeal contracts already have a two-year duration and will not be affected by this change.

LABC is taking this step in recognition that due to delays in processing refugee claims at the Immigration and Refugee Board, many cases are often taking longer than one year to complete. This requires lawyers to submit requests to LABC for extensions of their contract dates. By extending the duration of Immigration Standard contracts to two years, LABC aims to relieve lawyers and LABC staff of the extra administrative burden these requests entail.

This change excludes appeal Immigration contracts.

As always, we welcome your feedback regarding the LABC Tariffs. If you have any comments, please email lawyer.support@legalaid.bc.ca.

Rhaea Bailey
Vice-President, Legal Strategy

June 24, 2024

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

RESOURCES

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LAWYER NEWS

LABC TARIFFS

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Sent from the traditional unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.



Legal Aid BC, 400- 510 Burrard Street,
Vancouver, BC

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