

## **Re: Termination of Pro Bono Referrals**

The Legal Services Society has determined that, as a result of budget cuts for the fiscal year 2002/2003, we are no longer able to issue referrals to the private bar for pro bono cases. In accordance with this decision, no referrals will be issued after April 17, 2002. This decision is consistent with the hierarchy of services that have been set for LSS.

### **For referrals issued prior to April 18, 2002**

- If a budget has been set for the case, LSS will continue to fund referrals issued prior to April 18, 2002.
- If an approved budget has not been set for the case, counsel must submit a draft budget to the Pro Bono Case Management Program for approval by July 17, 2002.
- If no budget has been submitted by July 17, 2002, the referral will be terminated.
- If no budget has been submitted by July 17, 2002, no billings for disbursements incurred after that date will be accepted.

The Pro Bono Case Management Program was initiated by LSS in 1999 to allow us to set a budget in conjunction with counsel for reasonable and necessary disbursements on a case. A lawyer from the private bar works under contract to review the proposed budget submitted by referral counsel and determine a reasonable budget for the case. Since 1999 we have set budgets for approximately 200 client's cases.

If you have yet to have a budget set for your case please submit a draft budget proposal as soon as possible and not later than July 17, 2002. Once we have had an opportunity to review your proposal we will contact you to set up a meeting (if necessary) or advise you of the decision concerning the budget for your case.