

Notice to Counsel

September 2021, #116

Extended Family Contract Service Dates Cases Impacted by COVID-19

Pursuant to <u>Notice to Counsel #115</u>, Legal Aid BC (LABC) extended all active Family Standard contracts with a stop date between March 31, 2021, and September 29, 2021, to September 30, 2021, due to court delays associated with COVID-19.

As a result of the continued impacts of the pandemic, LABC is extending all active Family Standard contracts with a stop date between September 30, 2021, and March 30, 2022, to **March 31, 2022**, up to a maximum of four years from the contract start date. LABC will also automatically add 10 hours of General Preparation to each contract that is extended to March 31, 2022. The bill-by-date for all extended contracts will be six months from their new stop date.

These changes will be reflected on your contract(s) shortly. Extended contract(s) will contain a new note under "Contract Instructions to Counsel" in the Lawyer Portal.

These changes exclude the following contract types:

- All duty counsel (including Family LawLINE and circuit counsel);
- All Family Limited Representation Contracts;
- Contracts where Extended Family Services has been approved.

Action required to opt out of a contract extension: If you do not want your contract(s) extended and the additional 10 hours general preparation added to your contract(s), you must submit a final invoice to LABC by Friday, September 24, 2021.

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

Heidi Mason, Vice-President, Legal Advice and Representation

September 13, 2021

Questions or comments?

Contact our Lawyer Support team:

- Call 604-601-6155; 1-888-401-6206 (no charge), or
- Email <u>lawyer.support@legalaid.bc.ca</u>



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