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Stop dates on referrals

As we have passed the second anniversary of the introduction of the simplified Family and Criminal Tariffs, a number of referrals will have reached their service stop date. Stop dates on referrals issued prior to June 29, 2010 were shortened from three years to two (see [Notice to Counsel 74](#)). If your referral stop date has passed or if it is approaching and the client's legal matters will not be resolved by the stop date, you should contact our [Case Management Section](#). Include in your request any upcoming court dates, outstanding issues, and the date you anticipate these issues will be resolved (if this can be reasonably determined). Case management will review the client's case for continued coverage and financial eligibility. If it's determined that the client continues to meet current coverage and eligibility guidelines, we may extend your service stop date or issue a new referral for you to bring your case onto the current tariff. Cases subject to Criminal Case Management (SCAP) will have their stop dates extended and all current authorizations will remain in effect.

Criminal services information

Criminal Case Management: We are currently redrafting the policies governing Criminal Case Management (CCM). Since the Strategic Case Assessment Program (SCAP) was introduced in 2001, we have not conducted a comprehensive review of CCM policies. [Please read the information sheet.](#)

Duty counsel: Lawyers performing duty counsel are reminded to familiarize themselves with the Instructions for referrals section in the [Duty Counsel Tariff](#) guide. Remember that if you leave the courthouse, please ensure both Crown and court staff are able to contact you. You are expected to be available to return to court if your services are needed.

Bail reviews: When requesting bail reviews, please be sure to outline the charge, the ground(s) upon which the accused was detained, and whether the review is to address an error by the justice or if it is due to a change in circumstances from the time of the initial hearing. In the case of s.525 reviews, please set out why the outcome on review will differ from that at the original hearing. Although the code provides for automatic bail reviews, LSS only funds applications that have a reasonable chance of success. The more information you provide, the quicker and more informed the decision will be.

Family duty counsel — Scope and limits

Family duty counsel are available on most family remand dates in courts throughout British Columbia. In some courts, family duty counsel are also available on non-remand dates. These lawyers provide up to three hours of free advice on family law issues to clients who qualify financially. Clients who have current family legal aid referrals are *not* eligible for the services of family duty counsel. [Please read more](#)



General Terms and Conditions in *LSS Tariffs* were updated to reflect changes announced in two recent Notices to Counsel (Mandatory e-billing and direct deposit, and Fewer restrictions on articulated students) and to include background information about our HST responsibilities.

Family final results should be submitted *after* you have completed all your work on the referral. If you have had hours approved under extended family services, submit the final results form once those services have been completed.

Legal aid goes mobile

On May 17, 2012, we became the first legal aid organization in Canada to go mobile with the launch of our new website at www.lss.bc.ca/m. Designed for and viewable on iPhones, Blackberries, Androids, etc., the site delivers the basics about legal aid to the 45 percent of Canadians who can access the Internet on their mobile phones (according to a recently published [survey](#)). (You can also view the site on your desktop.)

Clients who need quick facts about legal aid in BC — where to get it, who qualifies for it, and how to apply for it, plus locations and phone numbers for legal aid offices — can now get this information with a touch of their mobile screen. They can also read brief descriptions of our free legal information, advice, and representation services, and about getting help with their family law problem, child protection matter, criminal case, immigration problem, or mental health or prison issue. The mobile Web pages contain links to the full website to access more details on all of these topics.

From this initial step into the mobile communications world, we'll continue to improve the content that will lend itself to tiny mobile screens for people on the go.

[Resources](#) | [e-services](#) | [Tariff guides](#) | [Contact us](#)



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