

Changes to Family Limited Representation Contracts

Legal Aid BC (LABC) is pleased to announce that it is expanding the scope of family coverage and eligibility to a new group of clients.

LABC is making changes to Family Limited Representation Contracts issued on or after September 25, 2020. The coverage and financial eligibility guidelines for Family Limited Representation Contracts will be expanded to cover clients who need assistance with any family legal issue, except divorce, in Provincial or Supreme Court. Clients who do not qualify for a Family Standard Representation Contract, but who are within \$1,000 per month of the standard financial eligibility threshold may be eligible.

These contracts are intended to provide clients with the assistance necessary to mediate, negotiate a settlement or represent themselves. The new Family Limited Representation Contracts will:

- be introduced for a trial period;
- provide a maximum of 8 hours of general preparation and 3 hours of attendance for court processes;
- include all disbursement items that are on a Family Standard Representation Contract, except travel items;
- have a service stop date of 120 days or March 26, 2021, whichever is earlier, and a bill-by-date of 30 days after the service stop date, with no extensions;
- not be eligible for Extended Family Services;
- not be eligible for changes of counsel (unless exceptional circumstances exist);
- not be eligible for travel; and
- be monitored for demand and based on available budget.

For more details, [see a summary of this service](#).

You must disclose the limited nature of your contract in compliance with Chapter 3.2-1.1 of the Code of Professional Conduct for British Columbia. An updated sample limited representation retainer letter is available in the Lawyer Portal under Resources.

Current Family Limited Representation Contracts

Lawyers with Family Limited Representation Contracts that were issued before September 25, 2020, can continue to provide services under those contracts until they reach their service stop date. The April 2020 Family Tariff will continue to apply to those contracts.

Increased Rates for Psychologists

As a result of discussions with the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers (ALL) and the Ministry, LABC has increased the rates for psychologists. The rate for preparation and court attendance has increased to up to \$150 per hour, and the rate for travel has increased to up to \$80 per hour (the previous rates were up to \$130 and \$69 per hour respectively for preparation/attendance and travel). The new rates are effective September 1, 2020 for psychologist services provided on active contracts.

The updated Family and Disbursement chapters of the LABC Tariffs are now available on the LABC website at legalaid.bc.ca (under Lawyers – LABC Tariffs) and in the Lawyer Portal under Resources.

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

Heidi Mason

Vice-President, Legal Advice and Representation

September 25, 2020

RESOURCES

LAWYER PORTAL

LABC TARIFFS

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