



Snapshot of services 2008 - 2009

Information services

LawLINE information/referral requests: Phone service for financially eligible people that provides information on a variety of legal issues	Client calls: 4,591
Publications: Legal information, self-help manuals, and legal aid awareness materials produced by the Society	Publications distributed: 152,618
LIOWs: Legal information outreach worker information requests	Questions answered: 5,961
LSS website: Features publications on various aspects of the law, as well as information about LSS and legal aid services	Visits/month: 124,000
Family Law in BC website: Helps people to understand and use the law to resolve their family law problems	Visits/month: 16,174

Advice Services

Criminal duty counsel: Provide accused persons with advice about the charges against them, court procedures, and legal rights	Client visits: 81,581
Immigration duty counsel: Duty counsel for people in detention at the Canada Border Services Agency's enforcement centre in Vancouver	Client visits: 1,113
Family duty counsel and advice lawyers: Advise on family law matters and child protection issues	Client visits: 25,899
Brydges line: Province-wide, toll-free telephone advice service for persons who have been arrested, detained, or are under active investigation by a law enforcement agency	Client calls: 27,045
LawLINE advice: Phone service for financially eligible people that provides advice on a variety of legal issues	Client calls: 6,218



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Representation by a lawyer

Criminal: Financially eligible clients charged with all but the least serious offences and if convicted, face a risk of jail, loss of livelihood, or immigration complications	Client referrals: 23,630
Family: Financially eligible clients facing situations where their safety or the safety of their children is at risk, they have been denied access to their children, or there is a risk that a child will be permanently removed from the province	Client referrals: 10,345
CFCSA: Financially eligible clients whose children have been, or are at risk of being, removed from the client's home by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, or clients who are facing legal proceedings initiated by the director of the MCFD, or if there are custody or access issues relating to a child in the care of the MCFD.	Client referrals: 2,775
Immigration: Clients whose cases have a reasonable chance of success and who need help with a refugee claim, have an immigration problem that could lead to their removal from Canada or are appealing an immigration decision	Client referrals: 2,079

Typical case costs

In the 2008 – 2009 fiscal year, there were 1008 lawyers in BC who took legal aid cases, 52% of whom billed LSS for less than \$35,000.

Type of case	# of cases	Avg. cost
Criminal: Category II (e.g., drugs possession, summary assault)	8,215	\$607
Criminal: Category III (e.g., drugs trafficking, break and enter)	9,152	\$1,123
Criminal: Category IV Non-SCAP (e.g., aggravated sexual assault, murder)	340	\$2,585
Criminal: Strategic Case Assessment Program (more than ten days in court)	219	\$10,031
Family: Emergency (e.g., wife requires restraining order, interim custody order)	4,821	\$1,875
CFCSA: Legal problem under the <i>Child, Family, Community Services Act</i> (e.g., child apprehended by the Ministry of Children and Families)	1,639	\$1,146
Immigration (e.g., representation at a Refugee Protection Division hearing)	1,371	\$1,006