Legal Aid Ontario

B3: Better Billing Bulletin

Issue #9 | August 2008

We've Moved!!

In July, LSP moved to its new location. We thank you for your patience, and hope you did not experience too much disruption. Our phone and fax numbers remain the same. Our new address follows:

Lawyer Services and Payments

Legal Aid Ontario Atrium on Bay 40 Dundas St. West, Suite 200 Toronto, ON 5G 2H1

Discretion Messages on Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) Pay Slips

On your EFT pay slips, there is an explanation of settlement and/or tips to help you bill better. We've created some new messages we wanted to bring to your attention that explain why your request for discretion was not paid in full. Please review these messages before contacting LSP regarding settlement on discretionary accounts. Samples of these new messages follow:

- #181 In considering your discretion request, one factor considered was the amount of time billed for administrative tasks.
- #182 In considering your discretion request, one factor considered was the amount of time billed for research. Counsel is encouraged to use LAO Law as a resource for research.
- #186 In considering your discretion request, one factor considered was preparation time; it was disproportionate to the apparent complexity of the matter.

Billing the Defence of Multiple Charges

When you represent a person charged with two or more offences, and the charges are disposed of in the same court on the same date, the hourly maximum is for one offence only. Please select on your Online account only the most serious authorized charge as having proceeded. When you exceed your tariff maximums, please send us a detailed request for discretion in writing with reasons.

See Tariff and Billing Handbook p.3-21

Questions?

Please let us know if you have questions or if there are topics you'd like to see us cover by contacting the Lawyer Service Centre at <u>pl-lsc@lao.on.ca</u>

