

*Legal Aid Services Act 2020*

# Minimum experience requirements for criminal youth and criminal mental health - implementation date change

Public consultation feedback summary


May 2023



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April 17 to May 17, 2023 was the period during which LAO accepted written submissions regarding the proposed new implementation date for the new minimum experience requirements for lawyers representing individuals in youth criminal or criminal mental health matters. The proposal is to change the implementation date from June 1, 2023 to January 1, 2024.

Just one written submission was received during this 30-day period. The submission did not include any feedback or recommendations specific to the proposed new implementation date. It made various observations and recommendations on the justice system, including:

- inmate committees that have monthly contact with community partnerships;
- better collaboration among community organizations that provide services and programs to legal aid clients;
- educating youth in the justice system about the foundations of laws;
- developing new, cross-discipline qualifications for individuals who provide programming for young offenders, and making these positions into stable careers;
- a structure that includes judges, juries, advocates, community supports and administrative services;
- develop legal teams to be more collaborative and less adversarial;
- include first responders in the legal process in a meaningful way;
- for mental health clients, establish a baseline with a virtual check-in two weeks prior to any in-person meeting;
- for mental health clients, use technology such as split screens and screen text to improve accessibility, and enhance their confidence in the transparency and completeness of communications and information.

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