



Public Legal Education
and Information Service of
New Brunswick

Service public d'éducation
et d'information juridiques
du Nouveau-Brunswick

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April 20, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

RE: PLEIS-NB FAMILY LAW PUBLICATIONS BEING REVISED

Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick produces many family law and family violence publications. We strive to keep these materials accurate and up-to-date by revising content as laws and legal services change. As a result of recent government cutbacks, as of April 17, 2009, the Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs will no longer be offering a separation/divorce counseling and mediation service attached to the Court of Queen's Bench, Family Division. The Court Social Workers who provided this service also determined eligibility for domestic legal aid services at the New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission (NBLASC). As of April 20, 2009, applicants for domestic legal aid must apply directly to the NBLASC. All applicants will be evaluated on the basis of financial criteria only and Family Solicitors will prioritize cases on a case-by-case basis.

As an agency that makes use of PLEIS-NB's publications and shares them with the public, we are contacting you to tell you about the impact of these changes on our publications. We also want to inform you of the actions that we are taking – or that we suggest you take - to make the most appropriate use of existing pamphlets.

Publication	Impact of Changes	Action
Domestic Legal Aid	This pamphlet is no longer accurate. As of April 17, 2009 the free mediation service has been eliminated. In-take, screening & eligibility criteria for domestic legal aid under NBLASC have changed.	Discard: Please discard stocks of this publication. PLEIS-NB will work with NBLASC on a new publication about legal aid services. We will announce and widely distribute it and it will be available on the PLEIS website.
Custody and Access in NB	We will revise this booklet to remove the referral to the free mediation services and the referral to domestic legal aid will indicate that abuse is no longer the determining criteria and eligibility is determined by the applicant's financial situation and legal merit.	Revising and Printing: The stock of this publication is low. PLEIS is revising it and will make it available to the public and service agencies within two months through a mail out and announcements on the website. Because stocks are low, we will not issue errata.
Living Together	Page 5 will be revised as it mentions the free mediation program and refers to the	Errata: Please continue to use this booklet. We still have stock on hand. Use the attached errata

	spousal abuse criteria for domestic legal aid. This needs to be revised.	cards to insert into the booklets. We will post a revised version on our website.
Applying for Custody, Access and Support in NB	Page 5 of this 65 page guide is affected. This page will be revised as it refers to the free mediation program and indicates that the domestic legal aid criteria are “spousal abuse”.	Discard Page 5: This guide is in a binder. We will revise page 5 and send it to agencies that have purchased the guide or have complementary copies. We will make this change on the out website.
Child and Spousal Support (series of four pamphlets)	These pamphlets refer to the free mediation program.	Discard: Please discard stocks of this publication. PLEIS plans to integrate these brochures into a single booklet that will include the revisions.
New Brunswick Child Support Variation Kit	Page (i) of the guide suggests using the free mediation service. This needs to be revised.	Errata: Please continue to use this guide. We still have a stock on hand. Use the attached errata cards to insert into the guide. We will post a revised version on our website.
Doing Your Own Divorce	Appendix - Breakdown of the Marriage needs to be revised as it refers to the free mediation service and the spousal abuse criteria for domestic legal aid.	Revising and Reprinting: PLEIS is revising this guide. It will be re-issued as Edition 11 in the near future. You may use Errata cards over the next while with 10 th edition.
Family Support Orders Service	This publication included mention of the free mediation program. Coincidentally, we have recently created a new up-to-date version.	Discard old FSOS and use New Publication: PLEIS-NB and Program Support Service, Justice and Consumer Affairs have worked collaboratively to create a new publication which is now available.
Parenting: Rights and Responsibilities of Young Parents	Pages 16, 17 and 19 mention the free mediation service. This will have to be revised.	Errata: Please continue to use this booklet. We still have a stock on hand. Use the attached errata cards to insert into the booklets.
Divorce and Separation: Legal Considerations (video)	This video includes considerable mention of the free mediation program. It may be possible to remove the parts that deal with mediation and spousal abuse criteria.	Plan to Edit and Re-Issue: PLEIS will work with Justice and Consumer Affairs to edit this video by removing obsolete information.
A Service Provider’s Roadmap to Empowering Women: Helping Abused Women Help Themselves	Page 12 – The section “Family Law Matters” describes the free mediation service and the abuse criteria for domestic legal aid. This needs to be revised.	Errata: Please continue to use this booklet. We still have a stock on hand. Use the attached errata cards to insert into the booklets. We will post a revised version on our website.

Ending Abuse in Your Relationship	'Family Court Social Worker' is included in the "Record of My Journey".	Reprinting: This booklet was out of stock. We are reprinting and will revise. However, if you have stock on hand, simply strike out the Family Court Social Worker.
Peace Bonds and Restraining Orders	Page 9 notes that victims of domestic violence may be eligible for domestic legal aid	Errata: Please continue to use this booklet. We still have a stock on hand. Use the attached errata cards to insert into the booklets. We will post a revised version on our website.
Creating Healthy Personal Relationships: An Information Booklet for Aboriginal Women	Accessing domestic legal aid through Court Services is mentioned in two places. This needs to be revised.	Errata: Please continue to use this booklet. We still have a stock on hand. Use the attached errata cards to insert into the booklets. We will post a revised version on our website.
Starting Over: What You Should Know About Family Law Matters (from the Healing Journey kit)	The first page of this booklet mentions the mediation service and the abuse criteria for domestic legal aid. This needs to be revised.	Errata: Please continue to use this booklet. We still have a stock on hand. Use the attached errata cards to insert into the booklets. We will post a revised version on our website.
Safer Families...Safer Communities: You Can Know How the Law Helps People Living with Abuse or Violence in their Lives	This fact sheet includes a description of the free mediation program and the abuse criteria for domestic legal aid. This needs to be revised.	Errata: Please continue to use this fact sheet. This is a new publication and we still have a stock on hand. Use the attached errata cards to insert into the fact sheets. We will post a revised version on our website.

Regards,

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