

MARCH 15, 2010

PLEASE NOTE:

Since publication of this Legal Guide there have been significant changes to Legal Services Society and Legal Aid and also to some available benefits. Information is listed below. We hope to produce an updated Guide in the coming months.

Chapter 1 - Child Protection and the Ministry and Chapter - 10 Financial Assistance and Benefits:

The Child In Home of Relative Program (CIHR) will not be available for **new** applications after March 31st 2010.

See MCFD News Release and updates at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcf/> “**NEW PROGRAM IMPROVES OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**” re Extended Family Program. See also Alternatives to Foster Care on the same site and click on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for more details on the Extended Family Program.

Chapter 8 - Getting Legal Help:

LawLINE has been discontinued.

LawLink has been discontinued.

Legal Aid offices in Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George, Surrey and Victoria have been closed. Offices remain in Terrace and Vancouver. Regional agents will be in place across the province to process legal aid applications. The Family Law Website remains as a useful resource: www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca. Also check www.lss.bc.ca or www.legalaid.bc.ca for details about the changes and current services.

Clicklaw operates through the Courthouse Libraries BC and is an excellent resource for legal information and education. Visit www.clicklaw.bc.ca.

The constituency office of your MLA is another place to turn for information and referral.

Please watch our website www.parentsupportbc.ca for future updates.