

4.1 Mentor Program

While some lawyers have access to the professional support and guidance of colleagues, many other lawyers practice more independently and do not have the benefit of informal consultation with more experienced lawyers. A mentor program provides roster lawyers with access to expertise in procedural and substantive law, as well as guidance related to file management, as it is required.

4.1.1 Role of Designated Mentors

The role of designated mentors is to provide professional support and guidance as requested or solicited by mentees. Designated mentors should not attempt or purport to supervise lawyers who seek guidance and support from them.

4.1.2 Responsibility of Mentees

The lawyer in whose name the LRCY appointment number is given is the sole legal representative for the child(ren) and/or youth(s) for whom an appointment is made. Prior to accessing the services of a designated mentor through the LRCY Mentor Program, each mentee shall sign an Acknowledgment Form and return it to the LRCY office. An Acknowledgement Form need only be signed once by a mentee, regardless of the number of times the mentee accesses the services of a designated mentor.

4.1.3 Mentor Selection

Any roster lawyer may apply to become a mentor. From the applications received, the LRCY Manager will select lawyers from each region of the province to be “designated mentors”. Selection of mentors will be based on the following attributes:

- i. Expertise in the substantive and procedural issues related to child and youth representation
- ii. Demonstrated interest in helping new lawyers grow professionally and a willingness to share professional experience and knowledge
- iii. Accessibility
- iv. Excellent interpersonal skills

4.1.4 Access to Mentor Support

All appointed lawyers, including designated mentors, have access to guidance and support of designated mentors. Appointed lawyers may consult with one or more designated mentors of their choice in relation to different matters. There are no limits on the frequency or duration of time that a mentee may access mentor support through the LRCY Mentor Program, although time in excess of 15 billable hours per designated mentor requires prior approval of the LRCY Manager.

4.1.5 Compensation of Mentors

Designated mentors shall be compensated at a rate of \$150 per hour for their time spent providing mentoring services to a mentee. Subject to prior approval from the LRCY Manager, designated mentors are restricted to billing the LRCY service for up to a maximum of 15 mentoring hours per mentee.

4.1.6 Professional Responsibility of Designated Mentors and Mentees

Designated mentors and mentees shall exercise professional discretion in ensuring compliance with confidentiality requirements of Chapter 6 of the Professional Code of Conduct while at the same time taking the necessary steps to actively guard against conflicts of interest and ensure compliance with Chapter 7 of the Professional Code of Conduct.