



December 2022

51 - 2022 NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION

IMPACT OF RACE AND CULTURE ASSESSMENT REPORTS

Legal Aid Manitoba has completed an agreement with the Federal Government to fund the production of Impact of Race and Culture Assessment Reports (IRCA Reports) until March of 2026.

This agreement allows LAM to provide reports for Black persons who are being sentenced and meet the following conditions:

- where the crown is seeking a sentence of two years or more; or
- a person charged under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* who is subject to a custodial sentence.

Where required LAM will also cover the fees and disbursements incurred for the IRCA assessor to appear in court as an Expert Witness.

LAM may consider circumstances beyond what is described above. In all cases counsel MUST FIRST seek authorization through PBOOnline / LAMAS and confirm the eligibility of the client. Counsel may not be reimbursed if they fail to seek prior authorization.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT IS ENDING

In 2018 Legal Aid Manitoba brought in the Domestic Violence Project as a temporary measure to address anticipated cash flow issues in the coming year. The project has been renewed on an annual basis since.

On the advice of EMC, the Management Council of LAM has resolved that effective December 19, 2022 the Domestic Violence Project will be terminated.

LAM recognizes that this project has caused hardship amongst the private bar and to the courts. The project was implemented to address a serious concern and maintained to ensure that our organization was able to continue to provide our services effectively and efficiently. However, with the changes in the intake and court processes and the promise of consistent funding from the Government of Manitoba, the need to continue this program is no longer present. We are grateful for your patience and assistance during these past four years.

AREA DIRECTORS' MANUAL AMENDMENT – CHILD ABUSE REGISTRY COVERAGE

The *Area Directors' Manual* s. 5.4.3 has been amended as follows:

Applications to oppose registration on the Child Abuse Registry have merit where there is no criminal conviction.

This amendment removes a requirement to demonstrate that being placed on the registry would impact current employment or future employment opportunities where the individual is currently a student.