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File No.:

To: Directors of Economic Security

From: Doug Sexsmith  
A/Executive Director  
Income Security  
Programs

Telephone:

Subject: **Availability of Legal Aid to Social Allowances Recipients**

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As you may know, it was announced in the Throne Speech that the Government wishes to ensure that single parents on the Social Allowances Program have access to legal aid in their efforts to obtain maintenance orders. The Board of Directors of Legal Aid Manitoba has indicated that Legal Aid represent social allowances recipients who wish to obtain maintenance orders where there is some likelihood of success.

Would you please instruct your staff to start referring appropriate cases to Legal Aid for consideration. Appropriateness would be indicated by:

1. the willingness of an applicant to seek a maintenance order; and
2. the likelihood that the court would make the order based on considerations such as the ability to locate the spouse and his/her ability to make maintenance payments.

If staff are unsure about a case, they should refer it to Legal Aid to make the final decision.