



AMICI
CURIAE
FRIENDSHIP
SOCIETY

www.legalformsbcc.ca

WHO ARE WE?

"Amici Curiae" translates into "Friends of the Court". Amici Curiae Friendship Society (ACFS) is a nonprofit charity that assists British Columbians to draft the legal forms necessary to present a matter to a court or a tribunal.

ACFS has been in operation since 2011 offering confidential in-person workshops to help members of the public to complete legal forms. ACFS is powered by volunteers such as paralegals, lawyers, law students, and other legal professionals, all of whom are supervised by experienced lawyers acting as duty counsel at these workshops. ACFS quickly adapted its delivery of services model at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and since April 2020 has been providing its services online (Virtual ACFS).

AMICI CURIAE APPROACHES ACCESS TO JUSTICE WITH COMPASSION.

FROM OUR FRIENDS

I welcome the creation of the ACFS program. The program is unique in Canada in engaging paralegals as primary pro bono service providers who work under the supervision of a lawyer to provide assistance to those who would otherwise find themselves with no help at all.

Former Honourable Chief Justice Lance Finch
February 3, 2011

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What Amici Curiae does is simple, but powerful. Their volunteers help people prepare their own legal forms for a court or tribunal matter, so that they can resolve legal matters on their own. In this way, Amici Curiae works daily to improve access to justice, a benefit to all of society.

Anne Giardini, OC, OBC, QC
December 19, 2018

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A key priority for the Ministry of Attorney General is to increase access to justice for British Columbians. Equal access is a vital element of our justice system and is a guiding principle for the ACFS. The society has built a strong reputation for the quality of its services and its commitment to those who need assistance resolving legal matters.

Attorney General of BC David Eby
February 15, 2019

WHAT IS EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE?

ACFS's services are provided on the principle of equal access to justice. This means **going beyond the application of a simple financial eligibility test**. Equal access to justice includes an assessment of an individual's capacity to navigate a complex and inaccessible legal system. And this principle of equal access to justice has become even more relevant as we all deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACFS's volunteer legal professionals provide clients with compassionate, correct and consistent client centered services to complete their legal forms. No legal advice is provided except for what is needed to complete the legal form.

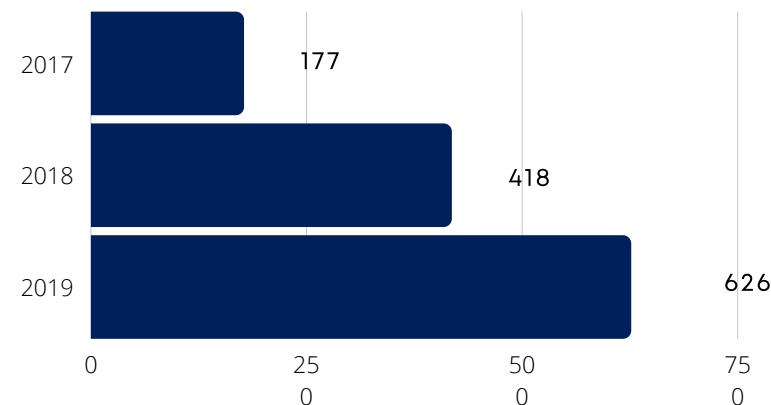
WHY?

Hiring a lawyer is too costly for most British Columbians and the ability to independently access the legal system is a challenge. ACFS assists members of the public who are trying to resolve legal matters on their own but are unfamiliar with how to properly prepare legal forms or prepare for a hearing.

CLIENT SERVICE HOURS DELIVERED



\$0 FUNDING



SUPPORT AC



Mail cheques to
Box 1506 - 7080 No 3 Road
Richmond BC V6Y0B5

Payable to Amici Curiae Friendship Society
Tax receipts will be issued.

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