

Regulated Paralegal Working Group

Draft Recommendations for Public Consultation

Executive Summary

What is this about?

The Regulated Paralegal Working Group is asking for public feedback on what kinds of legal work a new type of legal professional—called a **Regulated Paralegal**—should be allowed to do. This is part of a bigger effort to make legal help more accessible and affordable for people across B.C.

Why is this happening?

A new law called the **Legal Professions Act** was passed in 2024. It creates a new type of legal professional called a **Regulated Paralegal**, separate from lawyers and a notary public. A Regulated Paralegal will be regulated and insured, and will be able to provide certain legal services directly to the public.

Regulated Paralegals will be **different** and distinct from what are known in B.C. as paralegals. Paralegals work under the supervision of lawyers and are not allowed to provide legal advice directly to the public.

The purpose of creating a new kind of legal professional is to try to fill gaps in the legal system, providing an option for people who can't afford a lawyer or are trying to handle legal issues on their own.

In order to become a **Regulated Paralegal**, a person will have to meet specific education and other competency requirements established by a new legal regulator called Legal Professions British Columbia.

Who is working on this?

A **Working Group** made up of lawyers, paralegals, a notary, and others with relevant experience has been meeting since Fall 2024. They've drafted ideas for what regulated paralegals should be allowed to do and are now asking for public input.

What could Regulated Paralegals do?

The Working Group is proposing two types of licences:

1. General Scope Licence

Regulated Paralegals with this licence could:

- Represent people in **Provincial Court** for matters including small claims, traffic tickets, summary criminal offences, and some family law matters.
- Represent people before **administrative tribunals** (like tenancy or workers' compensation hearings).
- Help with things like **wills, powers of attorney, real estate transactions, corporate filings and transactions**, and **estate administration**.
- Represent people in **Supreme Court** for some family law matters, subject to the specialization licence set out below.

2. Family Law Specialization Licence

This would be for Regulated Paralegals who want to focus on family law. They would need the general licence first. After receiving the additional specialization licence on top of the general licence, they would be able to help with additional things like:

- **Adoptions**
- **Continuing custody orders in child protection matters**
- **Property division**
- **Other more complex family law issues**

Some specific areas like **surrogacy, fertility, and international child custody cases** would be excluded from both licences.

What feedback is needed?

The Working Group wants to know:

- Will these scopes help more people get legal help?
- Are there legal services missing from the proposal?
- Are there services included that shouldn't be?
- Are there other issues or barriers that Regulated Paralegals could help address?

How can I learn more about this project?

To learn more about this project, you can read the [Working Group's full report](#).

How can I share my thoughts?

You can fill out an [online survey](#).

