



SERVICES FOR ALBERTANS

WE BELIEVE IN AN ALBERTA WHERE
EVERYONE IS ABLE TO UNDERSTAND
AND PROTECT THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS.



Legal Aid Alberta

ABOUT US

We provide legal services and expertise to individuals and the legal community to support fairness in the justice system.

As a publicly funded, non-profit organization, we provide affordable legal services in family law, domestic violence, child welfare, immigration, and youth and adult criminal defense.

We are Alberta-wide: Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Siksika Nation and Wetaskiwin.

TO APPLY

By phone:

1.866.845.3425

Monday to Friday

8:15 am to 4:15 pm (except holidays)

For more information, visit

www.legalaid.ab.ca

BEFORE YOU APPLY

Before you apply for legal aid, please have the following information ready:

- Complete contact information (phone number, mailing address, email address, driver's license, or ID card number)
 - Documents that prove your financial situation (your last pay stub, bank statement, or income support statement)
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

FAMILY LAW

Legal Aid Alberta may provide a lawyer for the following areas of family law:

- Child protection/child welfare matters
- Representation of children
- Parental custody, access, parenting orders, contact orders and guardianship
- Child support
- Spousal support
- Hague Convention applications
- Separation and divorce
- Matrimonial property disputes
- Domestic Violence
- Emergency Protection Order Program

If you are eligible to receive services, we will evaluate your circumstances and your legal issues to advise on the best course of action to resolve your legal issue(s). Our staff are trained to identify options and strategies for legal issues to help you get the best possible outcome. We may appoint a lawyer for you.

If you have been assaulted or if the threat of danger is immediate, call 911 or your local police department/RCMP detachment.

If you or members of your family are victims of family violence, call the Emergency Protection Order program:

Edmonton and surrounding area: 780.422.9222

Calgary and surrounding area: 403.297.5260

If you live outside these areas, call the police at any time or visit your nearest courthouse during business hours.

ADULT CRIMINAL LAW

Legal Aid Alberta may provide you with a lawyer for the following areas of criminal law:

- Indictable offences, whether in the Criminal Code or any other Federal Act
- Summary conviction offences with a likelihood of imprisonment upon conviction or as otherwise permitted pursuant to Legal Aid rules.
- Extradition Act offences

If you are approved, Legal Aid Alberta will appoint a lawyer to represent you.

The nature of the charge, the court location and your preference will be considered when choosing a lawyer.

We provide duty counsel lawyers in most Albertan criminal courts to assist you with brief legal assistance if you don't have a lawyer.

YOUTH CRIMINAL LAW

All youth between the ages of 12 to 17 (or over 18 if charged under the Youth Criminal Justice Act) are eligible for a lawyer through Legal Aid Alberta when charged with a criminal offence.

When you contact Legal Aid Alberta, we will evaluate your situation and appoint a lawyer for you, no matter where you are located in Alberta.

Often, there are a number of issues that impact young persons' wellbeing. These may contribute to their involvement with the justice system. Justice Navigators work closely with lawyers to help clients get the best possible outcome in court and to assist with appropriate support services to resolve legal issues.

CIVIL LAW

Legal Aid Alberta assists eligible clients with the following civil matters:

- Income supports and government benefits
- Adult guardianship/trusteeship—when the client is the subject of the application
- Immigration and refugee claims

When you contact Legal Aid Alberta an assessment will be completed to determine the best service option for your legal issue.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

Legal Aid Alberta assists eligible clients with the following immigration and refugee matters:

- Refugee claims
 - Refugee appeals
 - Judicial reviews of failed refugee claims
 - Detention reviews
 - Admissibility hearings
 - Removal appeals to the Immigration Appeal Division
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SIKSIKA NATION

Legal Aid Alberta at Siksika Nation is a joint program of the Siksika Justice Department and Legal Aid Alberta that provides Siksika Nation members (primarily) with a wide range of high quality legal services. Legal services are provided in a manner that gives meaningful consideration to Siksika and/or Indigenous culture and values.

Legal Aid Alberta at Siksika Nation commonly provides assistance in the following areas:

- Criminal charges
- Child welfare matters
- Family law matters
- Employment and human rights

Legal Aid Alberta staff at the Siksika office can take an application for coverage through Legal Aid Alberta, and if eligibility guidelines are met, a lawyer may be appointed.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE AT COURT

DUTY COUNSEL

It is important we know our rights and how to exercise them. Duty Counsel are legal aid lawyers who provide free advice in criminal, family, and immigration cases. Duty Counsel is a free service for all Albertans.

When dealing with the police or courts, it's critical to understand what's happening and what options are available. This is why Duty Counsel exists – to protect your rights. Over the phone or at the courthouse, they are there for you.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE BAIL PROGRAM

Legal Aid Alberta offers duty counsel lawyers for Justice of the Peace (JP) bail hearings. This program helps those who have been arrested have proper representation when they appear before a Justice of the Peace. It is free to all residents, and offered across the entire province of Alberta.

This program is available from 8 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week. To access the service, tell the guard you would like to speak to duty counsel. When duty counsel is available, they will call the detachment to arrange a telephone call with you directly.

BRYDGES DUTY COUNSEL SERVICE (IN CUSTODY OR UNDER ACTIVE INVESTIGATION)

This telephone service is free to all Albertans (adult and youth) under arrest and in custody or under active investigation by law enforcement authorities who need immediate advice on their charter rights and criminal law. We are available to answer calls all day and all night.

Translation services are available in 110 languages. Telephone numbers for this service must be provided by all police and other law enforcement.

If you know someone who is being detained and you are able to speak with them, you may tell him/her:

- That they have the right to immediate, free legal advice from a lawyer
- To ask for the toll-free number to speak with a lawyer, if they have not already done so



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