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If you meet our financial eligibility guidelines, Legal Aid Alberta may be able to assist you with completing any forms that the Central Authority in Alberta provide to you. In addition, you will also need to contact the Legal Aid organization in the foreign country or state for coverage. Reporting to the board of directors, John is responsible for the executive planning and coordination of the organization. He also represents the organization in dealing with Alberta Justice, the Law Society of Alberta, the federal government, other legal aid plans in Canada, the legal community, and the public. General questions about LAA Are you an adult (age 18+) who has been charged with a crime? Do you have a court date for a criminal matter within two weeks? Do you need help at court? Are you being held in jail, or are you in police custody? Have you been denied bail or are you awaiting your bail hearing? Do you need a language interpreter? Can I apply for legal aid on behalf of someone else in custody? Standing up for people's rights is what we do. Here's how, and why it matters. An Alberta without legal aid would be disastrous for the justice system and society. Families unable to escape imminent threat of violence. Children in domestic danger. Albertans unrepresented and confused in court. People with limited financial means unable to pay for expensive court proceedings and trials. An overburdened and inefficient court system. Legal Aid Alberta (LAA) protects people's rights, represents the best interests of children and youth and defends clients at trial. We're lawyers, call centre staff and administrative professionals working together to provide an essential service to thousands of Albertans. Here are answers to eight frequently asked questions we get from clients and the public. Visit our Help Centre for answers to additional FAQs. Question 1: Who needs Legal Aid Alberta? Across this vast province, from urban downtowns to small towns, significant numbers of Albertans depend on Legal Aid Alberta. We help families in crisis and disadvantaged citizens of all ages who have come into conflict with the law, including youth, people who suffer mental illness or addiction and refugees. Legal aid duty counsel lawyers are in courtrooms across Alberta to provide immediate legal information, advice and assistance to unrepresented people. By the numbers* 34,500+ - total number of clients 28,000+ - bail hearings for people held in custody 16,000+ - calls for help from the 24/7 police hotline* 2020-21 Question 2: How busy is Legal Aid Alberta? We have more than 34,000 clients across the province and the need for legal help never stops. LAA Contact Centre agents field hundreds of calls every day. Priority callers Youth and adults in custody Anyone calling for an emergency protection order People calling for duty counsel advice before a first appearance in court COVID-19 has put immeasurable pressure on just about every call centre on the planet, including ours. The good news is, we recently implemented more reliable Contact Centre technology to better support clients and our teams taking calls on the frontlines. We have hired more staff to meet demand. Question 3: Who's financially eligible to receive assistance from LAA? If you're an adult, your income must meet our financial guidelines in order to qualify for legal services. Not unlike applying for income assistance, a mortgage or a student loan, there's a process in place to determine eligibility, and just like those agencies we may look at documents like income tax returns and bank statements to determine if you qualify. And you still have to pay for legal services - but at a much more affordable rate than private lawyers. We do provide some free legal services to all Albertans, regardless of income. Keep reading. Question 4: How much does legal aid cost? Some Legal Aid Alberta services are FREE for all Albertans. See Question 7. For most legal issues, legal aid representation is not free but will cost much less than a private practice lawyer. The cost of having a legal aid lawyer represent you depends entirely on the scope of legal services you need. Legal Aid Alberta lawyers charge a reduced hourly rate, plus miscellaneous fees. The fees a lawyer can charge are outlined in the LAA Tariff. Legal Aid Alberta pays your lawyer during your case and we work with you to set up a re-payment plan. All clients are expected to re-pay Legal Aid Alberta for their lawyer's services. There is no interest on a bill with Legal Aid Alberta, and you are not responsible for paying GST. It's important to remember that Legal Aid Alberta is a nonprofit organization. We receive most of our funding from the Alberta Government. Providing free legal services to every single Albertan is a utopia for us but would ultimately cost billions. Question 5: What types of legal issues do you help with? Our legal practice is focused on critical services Albertans need the most. In order to have a lawyer appointed to represent you, your legal issue must be one that we cover: Adult criminal cases account for a significant portion of our caseload, followed by family issues, youth crime, child welfare cases, and immigration matters. People with legal issues that don't qualify for legal aid, such as housing and tenant disputes, wills and estates and traffic tickets, are referred to other partner agencies in Alberta - from legal clinics to social assistance organizations and counselling services. We have connections in the community to help people find the support they need. Question 6: Can I still get legal aid if I live in a remote community? We are Alberta-wide, which means legal help is close no matter where you are. We represent clients in more than 75 communities. This is possible because we have a network of 1,200 roster lawyers who take legal aid cases. Roster lawyers are practice practice lawyers who play a crucial role in serving disadvantaged Albertans, especially in remote communities. serious criminal charges youth criminal charges family law and child welfare matters family violence mental health matters adult guardianship or trusteeship matters (when you are the subject of the application) income support matters immigration matters and refugee claims 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 statements, or income support statements) documents that prove your spouse or partner's financial situation any court dates that are in place any court applications or claims you have made any legal documents you have been served with criminal charge documents (your promise to appear or undertaking to a peace officer) referral from duty counsel immigration documents (your basis of claim) any documents relating to your legal matter Immigration and Refugee Law If you're an adult (age 18+) who has been charged with a crime, we may be able to help you if: You are likely to receive a jail sentence upon conviction, or You are facing deportation upon conviction. If you're dealing with a civil law matter, we may be able to help you with: adult guardianship and trusteeship We are unable to assist with civil matters such as lawsuits, landlord and tenant issues, or wills and estates. Legislated Provincial Crown Corporation Legal Services Society Act, SBC 2002, c 30 Governance Agreement The Legal Profession Act provides that the Minister, the Law Society, and Legal Aid may enter into an agreement respecting the operation by Legal Aid Alberta of a plan to provide legal aid to persons in need of it in civil matters or criminal matters or both. Legal Profession Act, RSA 2000, c L-8 Governance Agreement /laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-l-8/latest/rsa-2000-c-l-8.html wp/content/uploads/2024/09/Legal-Aid-Governance-Agreement-2024-2029.pdf Legislated Described as a body corporate and Crown agency. Governed by the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission. Legal Aid Act, SS 1983, c L-9.1 The Legal Aid Regulations, 1995, RRS c L-9.1 Reg 2 overview/ 2024_01_19-REVISED-2022-2023-Annual-Report.pdf Legislated Provincial Crown Corporation operates at arm's length from the government. Legal Aid Manitoba Act, C.C.S.M. c. L105 Legal Aid Regulation, Man Reg 22/91 lam/governance/wp-content/WordPress/PDF/Corporate_Directors_Manual.pdf Legal Aid Services Act, 2020, SO 2020, C 11, Sch 15 more/corporate/about-lao-landing-page/ lasa2020/lasa-2020-rules-and-policies/ Commission des services juridiques (Quebec) Act respecting legal aid and the provincial of certain other legal services, CQLR c A-14 12 in force regulations; most are related to tariffs or fees rendered under the act commission-des-services-juridiques/Commission/Historique/en New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission (NBLASC) Legislated The Commission operates under the framework of the Legal Aid Act and regulations. Legislation describes the commission as a body corporate. NBLASC is a Part IV Crown Corporation Legal Aid Act, RSBN 2014, c 26 General. NB Reg 2017-12 NBLASC-ANNUAL-REPORT-2012-2013_FINAL.pdf Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission (NSLA) Legislated The Legal Aid Act governs the circumstances and conditions under which Legal Aid will be granted. The Act also created the Commission and made it responsible for all matters relating to legal aid in Nova Scotia. Legal Aid Act, RSNS 1989, c 252 Legal Aid General Regulations and Tariff of Fees, NS Reg 77/77 about-us/ wp-content/uploads/2001/01/History-of-Legal-Aid-Updated-November-2017.pdf Prince Edward Island Legal Aid Direct provincial government service. It is found on the Justice and Public Safety section of the government website. Legal Aid Act, RSNL 1990, c L-11 Legal Aid Regulations, CNLR 1010/96 island.ca/en/information/justice-and-public-safety/legal-aid Legal Aid NL (Newfoundland and Labrador) Legislated The Legal Aid Commission operates under the Legal Aid Act Legal Aid Act, RSNL 1990, c L-11 Legal Aid Regulations, CNLR 1010/96 about/detail/?id=673&files/Legal-AidAnnualReport2020-21.pdf criminal charges (adult/youth) child welfare matters family law family violence adult guardianship/trusteeship immigration matters

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