



Legal Aid Alberta

A Just Alberta – one person at a time



SERVICES
for Albertans



Vision

An Alberta where everyone can access justice and achieve fair and lasting resolutions to their legal issues.

Mission

We are a leader in the provision of quality, efficient and integrated services that enable our clients to resolve their legal issues.



Legal Aid Alberta assists Albertans facing legal issues by helping them navigate their journey through the justice system and find lasting resolution to their legal challenges. Through professional, effective and accessible services, it is a leader in the provision of quality, efficient and integrated services.

It is an independent, publicly funded, not-for-profit organization that provides a broad range of services – from information to representation – in criminal, family, child welfare, youth criminal, refugee/immigration, and civil legal areas.

Legal Aid Alberta makes a difference in the lives of Albertans and delivers value that extends beyond those who receive its services. By supporting better outcomes for its clients, it positively impacts individuals, the communities in which they live, the justice system, and the taxpayer.



Legal Services Centre

The Legal Services Centre is most often the first contact point for individuals requiring assistance in resolving legal issues. It offers **free** legal information and referrals to all Albertans.

For Albertans who **qualify** under the eligibility guidelines, they offer advice, brief services such as assistance in preparing court documents and limited or full representation through an assigned lawyer. All services provided by Legal Aid Alberta are not free, which will be explained by a Legal Services Officer.

When you call or go to a Legal Services Centre, a Legal Services Officer will work with you to complete an assessment and determine the type of service that best suits your legal issue.

All Legal Services Centre locations can be reached by:

Phone: 1.866.845.3425

8:30 am to Noon and 1 pm to 4 pm,
Monday to Friday (offices close at
2:30 pm on Wednesday)

The phone service enables Albertans across the province, and in the most remote areas, to access Legal Aid Alberta.

In person:

Edmonton

Revillon Building
300, 10320 102 Avenue
T5J 4A1

Red Deer

AEI Building
200, 4802 51 Avenue
T4N 4H3

Calgary

Standard Life Tower
1800, 639 5 Avenue SW
T2P 0M9

Lethbridge

Lethbridge Centre
244, 200 4 Avenue
T1J 4C9



Duty Counsel

Duty counsel are lawyers who give immediate, free legal assistance to people who go to court or a tribunal without a lawyer. Its services are available in all criminal and youth docket courts across Alberta. If you have a family or child-welfare matter, duty counsel services may be available in your location.

If you are unrepresented for an appearance in docket court, simply go directly to the courtroom that has been assigned and ask to speak to duty counsel.

Duty counsel lawyers can provide information, guidance and advice prior to your appearance. Depending on the situation, they may speak to the court on your behalf. Duty counsel can only offer limited basic services.

Should you require full representation by a lawyer, duty counsel may recommend you apply to Legal Aid Alberta or hire a private lawyer.

Legal Aid Alberta assigns duty counsel to the following docket courts and proceedings in Alberta:

- criminal (adult and youth) courts
- drug treatment court (Calgary and Edmonton)
- disciplinary hearings at correctional facilities*
- Alberta Review Board proceedings*
- Mills/O'Connor Applications*
- Crown applications under s.486.3*
- review of an order under the Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act*
- Mental Health Review Panel hearings*
- Provincial Court — family and child welfare dockets (Calgary and Edmonton)
- Provincial Court – Family for Siksika
- Court of Queen's Bench — Family (Calgary and Edmonton)
- Emergency Protection Orders*

**If you are dealing with one of these issues, you may wish to call the Legal Services Centre prior to attending court. Duty counsel for these matters only appear as needed.*

Criminal Resolution Office

The Criminal Resolution Office provides a lawyer to represent you in reaching a resolution to lower-level criminal offences. It serves clients through its offices in Fort McMurray, Edmonton, Wetaskiwin, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Siksika Nation, and provides duty counsel in these locations. Eligible clients are referred to the Criminal Resolution Office through Legal Aid Alberta's Legal Services Centre.

In Calgary and Edmonton, the Criminal Resolution Office also provides representation to participants in Drug Treatment Court programs. These lawyers provide assistance in court and are available to help guide drug treatment participants through the process.

The cost to a client of a matter resolved through the Criminal Resolution Office is often much lower than it is through other resources.



Youth Criminal Defence Office

The Youth Criminal Defence Office lawyers are dedicated to the defence of young people charged with criminal offences. Youth (12 to 18 years of age) are referred through the Legal Services Centre. It may also assist young people who do not have criminal charges, but who have hearings for traffic matters or appearances before school attendance boards.

Youth workers assist the lawyers, and provide support and resources for young persons and their families before, during and after the court process. Youth workers can also assist in addressing issues that may contribute to youth coming into conflict with the law, such as family issues, homelessness and addictions.

This service is available in Edmonton and Calgary.





Family Law Office

The Family Law Office assists clients who have a family law matter and are referred through Legal Aid Alberta's Legal Services Centre. Its lawyers are familiar with all aspects of family law.


Services provided include:

- separation and divorce
- custody, access, parenting orders, and contact orders
- child support
- spousal support
- guardianship
- child protection/child welfare
- matrimonial property disputes
- representation of children
- grandparent contact orders

Its offices are in Edmonton, Wetaskiwin, Red Deer, Calgary, and Lethbridge.

Family Resource Facilitators, who are part of the Family Law Office team, help clients address personal problems by identifying options and by developing strategies to cope with their issues.

The **Emergency Protection Order Program** is offered in Edmonton and Calgary to help victims of family violence. **Representation at the initial confirmation hearing is free** to all Albertans. In Calgary, call 403.297.5260 and in Edmonton call 780.422.9222. In all other areas, contact your local police department or RCMP detachment.



Immigration and Refugee Services

Immigration and refugee services are available to qualifying individuals and families at Family Law Offices in Edmonton and Calgary.

Lawyers assist with issues such as:

- refugee claims
- judicial review of failed refugee claims
- detention reviews
- danger opinions (for people who are convention refugees/protected persons)
- admissibility hearings (for people facing criminal deportation/removal)
- removal appeals to the Immigration Appeal Division

Citizenship and Immigration Canada can assist with issues such as sponsorship and appeals, work permits, visitor visas, humanitarian complaints, pre-removal risk assessments, and in obtaining Canadian citizenship. You can reach its office at 1.888.242.2100 or www.cic.gc.ca.



Siksika Nation

Legal Aid Alberta at Siksika Nation is a joint program of the Siksika Justice Department and Legal Aid Alberta. It provides Siksika Nation members (primarily) with a wide range of legal services.

The program facilitates timely and effective services that are culturally sensitive. It works with existing programs and services to facilitate effective resolution of clients' legal issues.

Legal services for Siksika Nation members include legal information, summary legal advice, representation, and/or brief services and referrals in criminal, family, and civil law.

Siksika Nation members can access these services by:

Phone: 1.866.845.3425

8:30 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 4 pm, Monday to Friday (offices close at 2:30 pm on Wednesday)

In person: At the Siksika Nation Legal Services Centre located in the Siksika Nation Tribal Administration Building. Service is also available on court days at the court house.





Brydges Duty Counsel Service

This free 24-hour telephone service is offered to all Albertans (adult and youth) who need immediate advice about their charter rights and criminal law when under arrest, in custody or under active investigation by law enforcement authorities. Translation services are available in 110 languages. Telephone numbers for this service are provided by law enforcement authorities.



Your first call for legal assistance:

Contact a Legal Services Centre to
speak with a Legal Services Officer.

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For more information about Legal Aid
Alberta, visit www.legalaid.ab.ca



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