

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Phone: 1.866.845.3425

8:15 am to 4:15 pm

Monday to Friday (except on holidays)

IN PERSON:

EDMONTON LAW COURTS

1a Sir Winston Churchill Square

8:15 am – 4:30 pm

Monday to Friday (except holidays)

CALGARY COURTS CENTRE

Main Floor, 601 5 St SW

8:15 am – 4:30 pm

Monday to Friday (except holidays)

SERVICES FOR ALBERTANS

We believe in an Alberta where everyone is able to understand and protect their legal rights.

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



ABOUT US

Legal Aid Alberta is a not-for-profit organization that provides legal representation and support to help Albertans resolve their legal issues in criminal, family and immigration law.

Legal Aid Alberta is independent from government—this includes all agencies such as prosecutors, police, and child services. We are defense.

Legal Aid Alberta provides legal services to clients in support of fairness in Alberta's justice system—services that help ensure Albertans in all circumstances understand and are able to defend their legal rights.

APPLICATIONS

Whether you call or apply in person, we will work with you to complete an assessment to determine if you are eligible for Legal Aid Alberta services. We only help with certain legal issues and some services are only available to Albertans who meet financial eligibility guidelines. This initial assessment will also determine the type of service that best suits your legal issue.

For Albertans who qualify under the eligibility guidelines, a lawyer may be appointed to provide legal representation. Not all services provided by Legal Aid Alberta are free.

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.



DUTY COUNSEL

Our lawyers offer Duty counsel services for family, adult and youth criminal matters that provide information, guidance and advice to you prior to your court appearance. They also help people who are unrepresented at their court appearance and can offer limited basic services. This service is free to all Albertans.

If you don't have a lawyer for your first court appearance, go directly to the courthouse where you are to appear and ask to speak to Duty Counsel. Duty Counsel's first priority is to assist accused persons who are in custody and those who are unrepresented at their first court appearance.

Legal Aid Alberta provides Duty Counsel at Provincial docket courts throughout Alberta. Duty Counsel assists people appearing in docket court without their own lawyer. Duty Counsel can provide brief legal assistance and can assist with some other court matters.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE BAIL PROGRAM

Legal Aid Alberta now 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.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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

FAMILY LAW & CHILD WELFARE

Legal Aid Alberta may provide a lawyer for the following areas of family and civil 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 problems. 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, no matter what Alberta community you reside in.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE AT COURT





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.



EMERGENCY PROTECTION ORDER PROGRAM

Legal Aid Alberta helps victims of family violence through its Emergency Protection Order Program. The program is offered in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge (and surrounding areas) and to all Albertans regardless of income.

If you reside outside of these areas, go to your local courthouse during regular business hours or call the courthouse. After business hours, contact your local police or the RCMP.

The Emergency Protection Order Program provides clients with information and a lawyer who can help them to obtain and confirm protection orders. The program also provides ongoing information, risk assessment and safety plans to victims of family violence.

An Emergency Protection Order can:

- Prevent a family member from contacting you and other family members
- Prevent a family member from coming to your home, school, work or other places
- Remove a family member from your home
- Ensure weapons are seized.

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

Edmonton and surrounding area:	780.422.9222
Calgary and surrounding area:	403.297.5260
Lethbridge and surrounding area:	403.388.3162
Toll free:	1.866.845.3425

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 a likelihood of loss of the means of earning a living upon conviction
- 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

