

Where Can I Find Legal Help?

Help by student lawyers is **NOT** offered for the following matters:

- Dangerous or Impaired Driving offences
- Traffic offences
- Support for men charged with domestic violence
- Private Complaints

Contact a Student Legal Aid Office:

In the Toronto Student Legal Aid Services Societies (SLASS), funded by LAO, operate out of law schools at **University of Toronto** and **York University (Osgoode Hall)**. Please call to arrange an interview and bring charge Screening Form/Disclosure package to the interview.

For more information on student lawyers visit:

www.legalaid.on.ca/en/contact/contact.asp?type=slass

- **University of Toronto Downtown Legal Services**
655 Spadina Avenue, Toronto M5S 2H9 - 416-978-6447
- **York University Community & Legal Aid Services**
4700 Keele Street North York M3J 1P3 - 416-736-5029

**For answers to everyday (non-criminal) legal matters
visit Community Legal Education Ontario at ...**

www.yourlegalrights.on.ca

This information provided by The Salvation Army is a simple outline of legal information and process. It is not intended to give legal advice or substitute for legal counsel in any way.

The Salvation Army Correctional & Justice Services
77 River Street, Toronto, M5A 3P1 - 416-304-1974

www.salvationarmy.ca



Giving Hope Today

Revised Nov 28/13

First thing ...

- Research online the issues lawyers themselves say are important to consider when selecting a lawyer.
- Identify issues that are important to you.
- Speak to a few lawyers before choosing one.

*** (The above information can be found online or ask The Salvation Army for a copy of articles written by lawyers.)*

Always Get Legal Counsel

Court matters are best handled by appropriate and capable legal counsel. Always consult a lawyer before making decisions in a legal matter. There are many sources of information to locate a lawyer. Take time to find a lawyer you trust.

Six Places to Find a Lawyer

1. **Ask a friend for a personal referral.**
A lawyer who has done a good job for your friend is likely to do good work for you too.
2. **Criminal Lawyers Association**
The Criminal Lawyers' Association is one of the largest specialty legal organizations in Canada, with more than 1,000 members. It is a professional association of criminal lawyers and may provide insight into criminal lawyers who are well respected and well established.
189 Queen Street East, Suite, Toronto, ON M5A-1S2
416-214-9875 ~ www.criminallawyers.ca

3. Search the internet

Search for terms: e.g. criminal lawyer bail or criminal lawyer

4. Law Society of Upper Canada

For an impartial lawyer or paralegal referral service call the Law Society of Upper Canada or visit their website to <http://www.lsuc.on.ca/> can select "Find a Lawyer or Paralegal" (paralegals are not lawyers but can offer some legal advice) 1-800-668-7380 or 416-947-3300

- Lawyer and Paralegal Directory - The Lawyer and Paralegal Directory is a complete listing of legal professionals who are licensed by the Law Society to offer legal services in Ontario. Each listing includes the practicing status of the lawyer or paralegal. If a lawyer or paralegal has a discipline history, restrictions on his or her practice, there will be information on this in the directory listing. There is also a directory a Directory of Certified Specialists . These are lawyers have met established standards of expertise and knowledge.

Visit: <http://www1.lsuc.on.ca/LawyerParalegalDirectory/index.jsp>

- Lawyer Referral Service - The Lawyer Referral Service will give you the name of a lawyer within or near your community who will provide a free consultation of up to 30 minutes with a lawyer specialized in the area of law you require (e.g criminal law, family law et. to help you determine your rights and options.

Toll-free line 1-800-268-8326 or call 416-947-3330

TTY: 416-644-4886 ~ Email: lawrefer@lsuc.on.ca

5. Legal Aid Ontario

A Legal Aid certificate will be provided to pay for a lawyer for low income earners (ranging from singles with a gross income less than \$10,800 to families of five people with a gross income less than \$26,714). For specific details or to complete an application visit the court Legal Aid office or the Legal Aid Ontario website -

<http://www.legalaid.on.ca>

Call 1-800-668-8258 for help in 120 languages.

6. Ministry of the Attorney General

<http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca>

Justice Ontario provides easy-to-use information; access to legal resources and toll-free telephone access to the same information in 173 languages at 1-866-252-0104

How can a Paralegal help me?

Paralegals are not lawyers, but they can offer good legal advice and services in certain areas of law. They are licensed by the Law Society of Upper Canada and can represent someone in limited situations:

- in Small Claims Court
- in the Ontario Court of Justice under the *Provincial Offences Act*
- on summary conviction offences where the maximum penalty does not exceed six months' imprisonment
- before administrative tribunals, including the Financial Services Commission of Ontario.

A person with a paralegal license can do the following in the course of representing a client in any of the above-mentioned proceedings:

1. give legal advice concerning legal interests, rights or responsibilities with respect to a proceeding or the subject matter of a proceeding
2. draft or assist with drafting documents for use in a proceeding
3. negotiate on behalf of a person who is a party to a proceeding.

For more information visit: <http://www.ontarioparalegalservice.com/>

Two Inexpensive Options for Legal Advice

1. LEGAL LINE

Provides **FREE** information to Canadians through its website, telephone and fax-on-demand systems on 1,000 topics are covered within 35 areas of law. Ask a lawyer a question online at **www.LegalLine.ca** or call 416-929-8400.

2. STUDENT LEGAL AID SERVICES

With the supervision of full time lawyers, volunteer law students provide legal advice and represent clients. Student lawyers can help with:

- Minor crimes
- Landlord and tenant
- Immigration
- Tribunals, including the Ontario Human Rights Commission
- Summary Conviction Criminal matters (where jail is unlikely)
- Small Claims Court Cases
- Landlord and Tenant matters