

and orientation, a safe waiting area, and assistance with completing victim impact statements at the sentencing stage.

The Salvation Army Chaplain

416-314-4230

The Chaplain visits new arrests or those returning to court from a detention centre in the holding cells, and helps to contact family, sureties, lawyers, employers, religious leaders, shelters, treatment programs or other programs and people who can help with positive life change.

For **family and sureties visiting court** the chaplain will

- help find answers to questions related to court or clarify information received
- locate court staff or support agency
- provide referrals to treatment and community programs
- accompany people in the court
- provide emotional or spiritual support to the accused, family, friends, sureties, victims and witnesses

If you aren't sure where to turn for help the Chaplain is a good place to start. People visiting court who need food, clothing or other ongoing support are asked to contact The Salvation Army in their community. For local contact information see The Salvation Army staff at court or call Headquarters 416-321-2654 or visit salvationarmy.ca.

For people **just released from custody** the Chaplain can provide assistance with clothing, travel and arranging shelter.

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.

Metro North Court Chaplain

1000 Finch Ave. West, North York, M3J 2V5 - 416-314-4230

The Salvation Army Correctional & Justice Services

77 River Street, Toronto, M5A 3P1 - 416-304-1974

www.salvationarmy.ca



Giving Hope Today

Revised Jan 23, 2014

Court Support Agencies

Aboriginal Legal Services

Duty Counsel (Legal Aid)

John Howard Society - Direct Accountability

COTA Mental Health Workers

Probation

Toronto Bail Program

Victim Witness Assistance Program

The Salvation Army Chaplain

***Agencies provide help free of charge.
Visit the office of any agency here at Metro North Court
for more detail or specific information.***

For general court information at Metro North Court contact the Clerk's Office near the front door or call 416-314-4208

Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto

416-408-3967- Mondays only

Aboriginal court workers explain legal rights and obligations to their clients and assist in:

- securing legal counsel, finding interpreters if they are needed, assist with pre-sentence reports, bail hearings, and referrals.

Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto operates Aboriginal criminal, family and youth court worker programs in Toronto. Aboriginal criminal court workers attend all the Toronto area criminal courts. The family and youth court workers are located at family court at 311 Jarvis but may also be at other courts if necessary. At Metro North Court a Gladue Court operates on Monday afternoons and Aboriginal court workers are available then.

Duty Counsel (Legal Aid)

416-663-5560

Duty Counsel are Legal Aid lawyers who represent accused persons in bail, or plea court, or set date court free of charge if they do not have, or cannot afford, a private lawyer. Duty Counsel will interview all new arrests who do not have a lawyer. People who are at court as sureties to help someone in bail court are to report to the Duty Counsel office. Legal Aid lawyers are available to represent people at a trial. To apply for Legal Aid go to the Duty Counsel Office.

John Howard Society

Diversions / Direct Accountability Program

416-663-9449

Direct Accountability (*formerly referred to as Diversion*) is an alternative to prosecution in court and available at the discretion of the Crown. Accused persons must accept responsibility for their actions and agree to complete a community-based response as guided by the John Howard Community Justice Worker or Crown Attorney such as:

- writing a letter of apology, making a donation to a charity, completing community service hours, attending a relevant educational or rehabilitative program, etc.

This option is offered to those facing minor criminal charges without a criminal record or with a limited record. Those already in custody are not as likely to qualify for Direct Accountability.

COTA - Mental Health Court Support

416-785-9230 ext 4101,4102,4104 or 4109

Mental health support at the Metro North Court is provided by COTA (*Community Occupational Therapy Associates*). Mental health workers provide confidential assistance to people charged with low-risk criminal offences (and their families) to access and utilize mental health services and other supports. A mental health agency operates in all Toronto courts and includes Mental Health Diversion, linking people and families to services and supports, and education about consumer issues, mental health services and the mental health system.

Probation

416-314-0184

People who receive a sentence that includes a Probation Order (i.e. suspended sentence, conditional discharge, fine and probation, or jail and probation) or a Conditional Sentence Order must attend the Probation Office prior to leaving court once you have received your document from administration. If a Pre-Sentence Report has been ordered by the judge with regard to your case, please attend the probation office prior to leaving court.

Toronto Bail Program

416-667-0999

The Bail Program provides community supervision to minimize the inappropriate pre-trial detention of those accused persons who lack the financial resources or people to meet monetary or surety release. Services include pre-trial supervision which includes reporting a minimum of once per week, residing at an address approved by Bail Program and any other terms imposed by the court. Applications for community based supervision are accepted from private lawyers or duty counsel prior to an accused person's show cause hearing at Provincial court.

Victim Witness Assistance (V/WAP)

416-314-0009

V/WAP helps the most vulnerable victims and witnesses of violent crime, including domestic violence, sexual assault, physical or sexual child assault, hate crimes and families of homicides. Staff provide emotional support, referrals to community agencies, court preparation