

Legal Aid Ontario and Community Legal Clinics in Ottawa (February 8, 2023)

This information sheet is solely for informational purposes. We urge you to consult with us at info@connectingottawa.com if you have any specific legal questions about a client's situation.

WHAT IS LEGAL AID ONTARIO?	<p>Legal Aid Ontario provides legal help in English and French for low-income Ontarians in family law, refugee and immigration law, criminal law, and mental health law. In addition to funding legal clinics throughout Ontario, Legal Aid Ontario also offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a toll-free number that gives 20 minutes of free legal advice for family law matters • same-day court access to duty counsel (lawyers), paralegals, and court workers • staff lawyers who represent clients (see note 1) • representation by a private lawyer through a certificate program (see next section) • web-based information and referrals <p><i>Note 1: Integrated Legal Services Office (ILSO) assists low-income clients with a Legal Aid Certificate related to Family Law, Child Protection, Immigration and Refugee Law. ILSO also provides legal support upon referral from a community legal clinic for Ontario Disability Support Program claims and landlord-tenant issues.</i></p>																					
WHAT IS A LEGAL AID CERTIFICATE?	<p>A Legal Aid Certificate is a voucher that can be used to pay a private lawyer who accepts Legal Aid cases. People who are financially eligible can get a Legal Aid Certificate from Legal Aid Ontario for certain criminal, immigration, family law, or mental health matters.</p>																					
WHO CAN APPLY FOR A LEGAL AID CERTIFICATE?	<p>Eligibility for a Legal Aid Certificate depends on income:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Number of family members</th> <th style="text-align: center;">The amount of money your family earns in a year (for most family law cases)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">For domestic abuse cases</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$18,795</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$22,720</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$32,131</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$32,131</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$39,352</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$39,352</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$45,289</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$45,440</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$50,803</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$50,803</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Single boarder</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$12,330</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of family members	The amount of money your family earns in a year (for most family law cases)	For domestic abuse cases	1	\$18,795	\$22,720	2	\$32,131	\$32,131	3	\$39,352	\$39,352	4	\$45,289	\$45,440	5+	\$50,803	\$50,803	Single boarder	\$12,330	
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HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR A LEGAL AID CERTIFICATE?	<p>People who qualify financially and have a legal issue that is covered by Legal Aid Ontario can apply online through the Legal Aid Ontario Client Portal, by phone at 1-800-668-8258, or in person in certain cases (see here).</p>																					
WHAT IS A COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC?	<p>Community Legal Clinics provide free legal services to low-income people in areas of law that Legal Aid Ontario does not cover (see note 2). A person does not need a Legal Aid Certificate to access support from a legal clinic. Rather, they can contact the clinic directly. The main legal clinics in Ottawa are Community Legal Services of Ottawa (CLSO), Clinique juridique francophone d'Ottawa (Vanier), and the University of Ottawa Community Legal Clinic (UOCLC).</p> <p><i>Note 2: Community Legal Clinics generally provide assistance with legal issues related to: Housing (landlord and tenant issues), Social Assistance (Ontario Works/ODSP), Employment Insurance benefits, Canada Pension Plan-Retirement, Canada Pension Plan-Disability, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada Child Benefit, Workers' Compensation.</i></p>																					

<p>WHO CAN GET HELP FROM A COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC?</p>	<p>People who receive social assistance as their main source of income are automatically eligible for services from a community legal clinic. Otherwise, people must meet the financial eligibility guidelines below for help from a community legal clinic.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="511 241 1344 426"> <thead> <tr> <th>Family unit size for entity services</th> <th>Gross annual income:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>\$22,720</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>\$32,131</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>\$39,352</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>\$45,440</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 or more</td> <td>\$50,803</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="511 457 1344 562"> <thead> <tr> <th>Family unit size for entity services</th> <th>Liquid asset value limit for entity services</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Individual</td> <td>\$ 8,933</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family unit of 2 or more</td> <td>\$11,910</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The financial eligibility requirements differ slightly from Legal Aid Ontario.</p>	Family unit size for entity services	Gross annual income:	1	\$22,720	2	\$32,131	3	\$39,352	4	\$45,440	5 or more	\$50,803	Family unit size for entity services	Liquid asset value limit for entity services	Individual	\$ 8,933	Family unit of 2 or more	\$11,910
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<p>HOW DO YOU CONTACT COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES OF OTTAWA?</p>	<p>Community Legal Services of Ottawa has three office locations. Contact them by calling 613-733-0140 (South office), 613-241-7008 (Downtown office), or 613-596-1641 (West office).</p> <p>See website for more information.</p> <p>Areas of law: Immigration (do not cover the same immigration matters as Legal Aid Ontario), Housing (landlord and tenant issues), Social Assistance (Ontario Works/ODSP), Employment Insurance benefits, Canada Pension Plan-Retirement, Canada Pension Plan-Disability, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada Child Benefit, Workers' Compensation.</p>																		
<p>HOW DO YOU CONTACT CLINIQUE JURIDIQUE FRANCOPHONE D'OTTAWA?</p>	<p>Contact Clinique juridique francophone d'Ottawa by calling 613-744-2892 ext. 1111 or by emailing cscv@cscvanier.com.</p> <p>See website for more information.</p> <p>Areas of law: Immigration, Family, Housing (landlord and tenant issues), Social Assistance (Ontario Works/ODSP), Employment Insurance benefits, Canada Pension Plan-Retirement, Canada Pension Plan-Disability, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada Child Benefit, Workers' Compensation.</p>																		
<p>HOW DO YOU CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC?</p>	<p>Contact University of Ottawa Community Legal clinic by calling 613-562-5600.</p> <p>See website for more information.</p> <p>Areas of law: family, criminal, tenant, and public legal education.</p>																		

