

## Legal Aid Ontario and Community Legal Clinics in Ottawa (Updated: March 20, 2023)

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

<p><b>WHAT IS LEGAL AID ONTARIO?</b></p>	<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"> <li>• a toll-free number that gives 20 minutes of free legal advice for family law matters</li> <li>• same-day court access to duty counsel (lawyers), paralegals, and court workers</li> <li>• staff lawyers who represent clients (see note 1)</li> <li>• representation by a private lawyer through a certificate program (see next section)</li> <li>• web-based information and referrals</li> </ul> <p><i>Note 1: <a href="#">Integrated Legal Services Office (ILSO)</a> 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>																					
<p><b>WHAT IS A LEGAL AID CERTIFICATE?</b></p>	<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>																					
<p><b>WHO CAN APPLY FOR A LEGAL AID CERTIFICATE?</b></p>	<p>Eligibility for a Legal Aid Certificate depends on income:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="505 968 1352 1371"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number of family members</th> <th>The amount of money your family earns in a year (for most family law cases)</th> <th>For domestic abuse cases</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>\$18,795</td> <td>\$22,720</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>\$32,131</td> <td>\$32,131</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>\$39,352</td> <td>\$39,352</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>\$45,289</td> <td>\$45,440</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5+</td> <td>\$50,803</td> <td>\$50,803</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single boarder</td> <td>\$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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<p><b>HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR A LEGAL AID CERTIFICATE?</b></p>	<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 <a href="#">here</a>).</p>																					
<p><b>WHAT IS A COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC?</b></p>	<p><b>A person does not need a Legal Aid Certificate to access support from a legal clinic.</b> Rather, they can contact the clinic directly. The main legal clinics in Ottawa are <a href="#">Community Legal Services of Ottawa (CLSO)</a>, <a href="#">Clinique juridique francophone d'Ottawa (Vanier)</a>, and the <a href="#">University of Ottawa Community Legal Clinic (UOCLC)</a>. 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).</p> <p><i>Note 2: Generally, community legal clinics 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. CLSO and Vanier also practice in the area of Immigration and Refugee law.</i></p>																					

<p><b>WHO CAN GET HELP FROM A COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC?</b></p>	<p>The financial eligibility requirements for help from community legal clinics differ slightly from Legal Aid Ontario's financial eligibility requirements. Generally, community legal clinics have discretion to assist people whose income is slightly higher than Legal Aid Ontario's financial eligibility cut-offs noted above. Community legal clinics also have discretion to offer summary legal advice to people regardless of their income, and people who receive social assistance as their main source of income are automatically eligible for services from community legal clinics.</p> <p>People are encouraged to contact community legal clinics for help even if they are not sure they qualify for legal services based on their income.</p>
<p><b>HOW DO YOU CONTACT COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES OF OTTAWA?</b></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 <a href="#">website</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Areas of law:</b> Immigration and Refugee (do not cover the same immigration and refugee 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, Public Legal Education, Law Reform, and community organizing.</p>
<p><b>HOW DO YOU CONTACT CLINIQUE JURIDIQUE FRANCOPHONE D'OTTAWA?</b></p>	<p>Contact Clinique juridique francophone d'Ottawa by calling 613-744-2892 ext. 2 or by filling out the request form at <a href="http://www.cscvanier.com">www.cscvanier.com</a></p> <p>See <a href="#">website</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Areas of law:</b> Immigration and Refugee, 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><b>HOW DO YOU CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC?</b></p>	<p>Contact University of Ottawa Community Legal clinic by calling 613-562-5600.</p> <p>See <a href="#">website</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Areas of law:</b> family, criminal, tenant, and public legal education.</p>