



What is legal aid?

Many provinces have some version of legal aid. In Newfoundland and Labrador legal aid is a program which low-income individuals with legal problems may apply to get help. Legal aid strives to provide professional legal services to individuals facing legal problems. It is by no means less than any other legal service offered in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Legal aid can be free for individuals, however, sometimes there may be a charge for some or all of the legal services you receive.

Who qualifies for legal aid?

Legal aid is available to individuals who meet financial requirements.

This is assessed on a case by case basis. Many factors may determine whether you qualify financially. Legal aid will examine your income(s), your spouse's income(s), your costs of living (housing, food, utilities,), transportation, debts, and many other factors.

It is at the discretion of legal aid whether you qualify financially.

What types of law does legal aid practice?

Legal aid does not cover every type of law. The focus areas of legal aid are criminal, family law, administrative law, and immigration and refugee law.

Criminal law

If you are a youth (between ages 12-17), legal aid will cover your offence if you meet the financial requirements.

If you are an adult and are charged with an indictable offence (serious offences such as murder, theft, etc.) legal aid will cover your matter if you meet the financial requirements.

If you are charged with a summary offence (often less serious offences) legal aid will determine whether your matter will be covered, provided you meet the financial requirements. This is based on different factors, such as whether you may be convicted, lose your job if convicted, etc.

Provided you meet the financial requirements, legal aid will determine whether or not you will be covered and represented. It is their discretion, and just because your matter is an area they practice or have practiced before, does not mean your case will be covered.

Family law

Legal aid usually covers disputes such as divorce, separation, and child custody and access. There are other areas of family law, such as child and spousal support, that they may cover. However, you must meet the financial requirements.

As with criminal law matters, family law matters are at the discretion of legal aid as to whether or not they will be covered.

Immigration and Refugee law

If you have a hearing before the Immigration and Refugee Board legal aid may be available for you. This is at the discretion of legal aid.

Traffic tickets and administrative law

If there is a risk of you losing employment, possibly going to jail, or have another special circumstance legal aid may cover traffic tickets and driving offences.

Legal aid may also cover administrative law issues, such as labour and employment issues like grievances and employment insurance appeals, social assistance appeals, among other areas. This is at the discretion of legal aid, provided you meet the financial requirements.

Areas not covered by legal aid

Most areas of the law are not covered by legal aid. These include, but are not limited to:

- Civil law suits (ex: suing someone for a car accident).
- Corporate and commercial law.
- Contract disputes.

- Property disputes.

How do I apply for legal aid?

To apply for legal aid you must fill out an application form found online here:
<http://www.legalaid.nl.ca/pdf/application.pdf>.

You must fill out this application in full. If not, your application may be rejected.

If you receive income support from the Department of Advanced Education and Skills you must also fill out a consent form, found online here:

http://www.legalaid.nl.ca/Department_of_Advanced_Education_and_Skills_Consent_Form.doc.

You may then mail your application or drop it off in person to one of the locations below. You may also arrange an appointment with a legal aid office.

Carbonear

P.O. Box 340
21 Industrial Crescent
A1Y 1B7
Tel: (709) 596-7835 / 786-6003
Fax: (709) 596-1301

Clareville

382 Memorial Drive
A5A 1P4
Tel: (709) 466-7138
Fax: (709) 466-7024

Corner Brook

19 Union Street
A2H 5P9
Tel: (709) 639-9226
Fax: (709) 634-3760

Gander

94 Airport Boulevard
A1V 2M7
Tel: (709) 256-3991
Fax: (709) 256-4336

Grand Falls-Windsor

7A Queensway Drive,
P.O. Box 6
A2A 2J3
Tel: (709) 489-9081
Fax: (709) 489-1197

Wabush

P.O. Box 370
Wabush Shopping Centre,
Grenfell Drive, A0R 1B0
Tel: (709) 282-3425
Fax: (709) 282-3427

Marystown

P.O. Box 474
4 Industrial Park
A0E 2M0
Tel: (709) 279-3068
Fax: (709) 279-4249

St. John's

Suite 200, 251 Empire Avenue
A1C 3H9
Tel: (709) 753-7863
Fax: (709) 753-6226

69 Elizabeth Avenue,
A1A 1W8
Tel: (709) 722-6981
Fax: (709) 722-6984

Stephenville

135 Carolina Avenue
P.O. Box 570
A2N 3B4
Tel: (709) 643-5263
Fax: (709) 643-279

What can I do if my application is denied?

After you have been notified that you will not receive legal aid you may appeal the decision. You will be sent a "Notice of Appeal" form with your letter of denial. You must complete and send the form to the address listed on your Notice of Appeal form within **14 days** to appeal. The appeal form may also be found online here: <http://www.legalaid.nl.ca/Notice-of-Appeal-Form-10.doc>

You will then be contacted by the Provincial Directors Office for more information. You will be notified if you have successfully appealed your decision.

If you are denied your appeal, you may make a final appeal to the Appeal Board of the Newfoundland and Labrador Legal Aid Commission. The notice to appeal the provincial director form may be found online here: <http://www.legalaid.nl.ca/Appeal-from-Provincial-Director.doc>

For more information

For more information you may contact legal aid offices throughout the province as noted on pages three and four. If at any time you have any questions or concerns you may contact legal aid toll-free at 844-304-5263, or you can visit their website online here: <http://www.legalaid.nl.ca/index.html>.