

Legally speaking...

Did you know?

Revised July 2013

This fact sheet contains legal information, not advice and is accurate as at the above date.

For legal advice, please contact a lawyer.

Subject: Human Rights

BC HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC - GETTING A LAWYER (1)

The Human Rights Clinic is a specialized clinic that provides representation and services to BC residents in their complaint under the Human Rights Code.

The Human Rights Coalition, in partnership with the Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS), runs a human rights clinic program that offers client services and public legal education.

Is there a cost to get a lawyer through the clinic?

No. These services are offered at no cost on a province wide basis.

How do I apply to the clinic?

If you need help drafting a human rights complaint, you may attend a workshop put on by the Coalition to assist people with this step in the process.

In addition, if the BC Human Rights Tribunal accepts your complaint, you can contact the Coalition to request representation for your case. You need to apply to the clinic within 30 days of receiving a letter from the BC Human Rights Tribunal stating that they have accepted your complaint. You must meet certain criteria in order to qualify to get representation for your case.

Will I get a lawyer for my Human Rights case?

Services are first offered by lay advocates (paralegals) and then by lawyers who specialize in human rights law. If the Coalition accepts your file, they will assist with the initial steps in the case including negotiating an early settlement and handling preliminary applications. The Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS) may take on a case in its later stages.

What if I am the respondent in a Human Rights case?

The clinic offers its services and representation to individuals that make a complaint that are the **complainants**. If you are a respondent needing assistance with a human rights complaint, the University of Victoria's Law Centre runs a respondent clinic. If you meet the income criteria, you can also get assistance from the UBC Law Student's Legal Advice Program, or contact the Lawyer Referral Service at (604) 687-3221.

For More Information

BC Human Rights Clinic

1202 - 510 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

Phone: 604-689-8474

Toll Free: 1-877-689-8474

Website: www.bchrcoalition.org

Community Legal Assistance Society

Telephone: 604-685-3425

Toll free: 1-888-685-6222

Website: www.clasbc.net

BC Human Rights Tribunal

1170 - 605 Robson Street, Vancouver

Phone: 604-775-2000

Toll free: 1-888-440-8844

TTY: (604) 775-2021

Website: www.bchrt.bc.ca

UBC Law Student's Legal Advice Program

Phone: 604-822-5791

Fact Sheet: BC Human Rights Clinic - Getting a Lawyer (2)

