

Legally speaking.....

Did you know?

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LEGAL AID

Types of legal problems covered

There have been many cutbacks to legal aid. Many legal problems that used to be covered are not covered any more.

Have there been cutbacks to coverage of family problems?

Yes. There have been drastic cuts to coverage of family problems. Legal aid now just covers serious and emergency family problems. For example, if you need a family law protection order (restraining order) because you or your children are at risk of violence. Also, cases where the Ministry of Children and Family Development has taken, or threatens to take your child away from you are covered. All other family matters that do not meet this emergency criteria test are usually not covered. You must also be financially eligible to qualify.

What other types of legal problems are still covered by legal aid?

Legal aid still covers the following types of legal problems:

Criminal coverage- If you have been charged with a serious crime, and you are likely to get jail time upon conviction, and you qualify financially, then you will usually be able to get a lawyer through legal aid.

Immigration matters- If you are a refugee claimant and you need a lawyer, you may qualify for legal aid. You must also be financially eligible to qualify. Also, if you are being deported, you may be able to get a legal aid lawyer. Eligible claimants on the North Shore can contact the Vancouver legal aid office for assistance. Call the legal aid immigration line at **604-601-6076** or **1-800-601-6076**.

Legal aid no longer provides lawyers for human rights complaints or poverty law problems.

If you have a family law or criminal law legal problem and need to apply for legal aid, you can do so at the office closest to you.

The **local legal aid** office in North Vancouver is located at the Courthouse in North Vancouver city at 200 East 23rd Street. Phone: **604-980-7000**.

If you live in a remote area, and do not have access to a legal aid office, you can apply on the phone by calling the **Legal Services Call Centre** at **604-408-2172** (Lower Mainland) or **1-866-577-2525** (toll free, outside the Lower Mainland).



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