

LEGAL AID, JUSTICE AT THE RIGHT PRICE

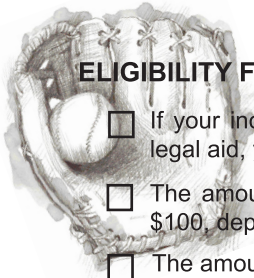
THE LEGAL AID APPLICATION

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- Every Québec resident can apply for legal aid.
- You must make an appointment at the bureau closest to your residence.
- You must bring all the documents needed to establish your financial situation and the financial situation of your family.
- You must sign your application as well as an authorization allowing the information to be verified.
- You may choose a lawyer who is a permanent legal aid staff member or a lawyer in private practice who accepts legal aid mandates.
- You, personally, do not have to pay anything to your lawyer.

FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

- In determining your financial eligibility, we will consider your income and the value of your property and liquidities and, if applicable, those of your spouse.
- Your financial eligibility will be established on the basis of eligibility scales that are set by regulation and indexed annually. They are available at all legal aid offices and on the Web site of the CSJ.
- You may be eligible for gratuitous or contributory legal aid.
- Any person who is receiving benefits under a program of last resort financial assistance (social assistance) is financially eligible for gratuitous legal aid.



ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTRIBUTORY LEGAL AID

- If your income, property or liquidities exceed the eligibility scales for gratuitous legal aid, you may be eligible for contributory legal aid.
- The amount of the contribution will range from \$100 to \$800, in increments of \$100, depending on your situation.
- The amount of the contribution cannot exceed the cost of the services rendered.
- If the cost of the services is less than the set contribution, you will only be required to pay the cost of the services.
- Payment of the contribution may be spread out over a maximum of 6 months.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS REGARDING YOUR ELIGIBILITY,
DO NOT HESITATE TO HAVE IT VERIFIED.**



Legal aid: a network at your service

Commission des services juridiques
2, Complexe Desjardins, Tour de l'Est, #1404
Montréal (Québec) H5B 1B3

March 2009

www.csj.qc.ca
Tel.: 514 873-3562
Fax: 514 873-8762

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C H E C K L I S T

COVERAGE IN CRIMINAL LAW MATTERS

- Every person who has been arrested or is being held in custody has the right to a free telephone consultation regardless of his or her income.
- Services are covered when a person is being prosecuted for an indictable offence.
- Services may be covered for other offences if there is a probability of imprisonment, if there is a risk the plaintiff will lose his or her means of livelihood or if it is in the interests of justice that legal aid be granted.

COVERAGE IN YOUTH LAW MATTERS

- Services are covered to provide a defence to adolescents facing proceedings under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
- Services are covered for matters involving the *Youth Protection Act*.

COVERAGE IN MATTERS INVOLVING FAMILY LAW AND THE LAW OF PERSONS

- Services are covered in family law matters (separation, divorce, custody and support payments, etc.) and in matters involving the law of persons (protective supervision of persons of full age, mandates given in anticipation of incapacity, etc.).

COVERAGE IN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW MATTERS

- Services are covered for reviews of, and court rulings on decisions rendered with respect to benefits provided for under certain legislation such as the *Act respecting occupational health and safety*, the *Automobile Insurance Act* and the *Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan*.

OTHER COVERAGE IN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Services are covered if the plaintiff's physical or psychological security is at stake or if the plaintiff's basic needs or means of livelihood are involved.

REVIEW

- Any decision that refuses or withdraws legal aid or deals with an application for reimbursement or the amount of the contribution payable may be subject to an application for review.
- Applications for review are heard by a committee composed of three members who are not legal aid employees.

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