



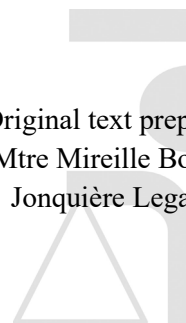
Legal Brief*

Vol. 15

Number 9

November 2023

Original text prepared by
Mtre Mireille Bonneau,
Jonquière Legal Aid



Contact Us

Commission des
services juridiques
Communications
Department
P.O. Box 123
Succursale Desjardins
Montreal, Québec
H5B 1B3

Telephone: 514-873-3562
Fax: 514-864-2351

www.csj.qc.ca

* The information set out in this document is not a legal interpretation.

The masculine is used to designate persons solely in order to simplify the text.

Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery

As she has done almost every day after supper, 15-year-old Kayla heads out to the park near her home to meet up with her friends. That evening, she spots a group of young people who appear to be fighting. As she gets closer, she recognizes Leo, her best friend, who is being beaten up by kids she does not know. She rushes in to stop them and, as she is intervening, she receives a blow to the jaw. Kayla unfortunately suffers after-effects from this injury, which was caused by a teenager she had never seen before. Kayla's parents have not made a claim under the [Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery](#).

Can Kayla file an application herself, even though she is only 15?

The answer is yes. As a victim of and witness to this altercation, she will be entitled to compensation, in accordance with the *Act* and the regulations, for the injury to her integrity. She will also be entitled to receive psychological assistance if necessary. A victim who is a child aged 14 or over can file a qualification application on their own.

In addition, someone who intervenes and suffers interference with their integrity while arresting or attempting to arrest an offender or while preventing or attempting to prevent the commission of a criminal offence may also be entitled to financial assistance under s. 16 of the *Act*.

From now on, a qualification application must be filed with IVAC within three years after the date on which the victim becomes aware of the injury they suffered due to the commission of the criminal offence or within three years after a death due to the commission of a criminal offence.

Nonetheless, a qualification application may be filed at any time if the criminal offence involves violence suffered during childhood, sexual violence or spousal violence.

In addition, if an application previously filed with IVAC under the former legislation was refused because it was filed too late, if the situation involves:

- violent behaviour suffered during childhood,
- sexual violence, or
- conjugal violence,

an application can be made to have the file reactivated. This application must be filed before October 13, 2024.

Don't hesitate to make an appointment at a legal aid office near you. For contact details, please click on the following link: www.csj.qc.ca.

You can also check your eligibility online [here](#).