

Legal Aid

What is Legal Aid?

In Quebec, low-income people and families can get legal aid for free or at low cost. You can receive legal aid if you **qualify financially** and if the **legal services you need are covered**.



Financial Eligibility

Free legal aid



People receiving social assistance (welfare) are automatically financially eligible.



Minors (people under 18) are financially eligible for free legal aid regardless of their income.



People that earn under a certain amount (ex. gross annual income of \$28,665* for a single person) are eligible.

You do not qualify?

Legal aid with a contribution

If you earn more than the cut-off for free legal aid, you might still qualify for legal aid, but you would have to pay something. For example,

- A single person
- Gross annual income between \$28,665 and \$40,043*

They could receive legal aid but would **have to pay up to \$800**, depending on their exact income and the service in question.

* Eligibility threshold for 2024. The eligibility thresholds for legal aid are updated annually. The value of any property (such as a house) or savings may affect your eligibility for either free legal aid or legal aid with a contribution. Only a legal aid office can provide a definite answer on financial eligibility.

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Legal Services Covered

<p>Granted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family matters (ex. divorce, child support) • Youth protection • Representing youth in criminal matters • Criminal defense for indictable offences (crimes that are more serious) • Claims regarding government benefits (ex. social assistance, EI)
<p>Granted in some cases</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal matters other than indictable offences • Administrative, civil and immigration matters (ex. eviction from apartment, asylum claims)
<p>Never granted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libel and defamation cases – for the plaintiff • Parking tickets • Some other procedures

i Contact the legal aid office if you do not see your legal problem mentioned in this table.

How to Obtain Legal Aid

To apply for legal aid, you must go to the **legal aid office** closest to where you live. You will be asked to provide **proof of your financial situation** and **information and documents about your legal problem**.

If your application for legal aid is accepted, you can either be represented by a lawyer working at the legal aid office, or by any lawyer in private practice who agrees to take your case. The lawyer will be sent a **legal aid mandate** confirming your eligibility and will bill legal aid for the services they provide you.