

AR 57933

November 7, 2023

Mr. Jake Deveaux  
[lorrydriver1345@aol.com](mailto:lorrydriver1345@aol.com)

Dear Mr. Deveaux:

Thank you for your email dated October 24, 2023, to the Honourable Mickey Amery, Minister of Justice, regarding your legal matters. Minister Amery forwarded your email and has asked me to respond on his behalf. As the Assistant Deputy Minister of Court and Justice Services, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following information.

I acknowledge the hardships you have experienced; however, the Government of Alberta cannot provide legal advice to private individuals or in any way, direct or otherwise, intervene in any private legal matter. Judicial independence is a cornerstone of our justice system, which guarantees that judges make impartial decisions, free of government control or influence, and based on evidence, facts, and the law. The rule of law requires government representatives, including elected officials, to respect the decisions of the judiciary. This means that we cannot direct a judge to take a specific course of action or provide legal advice on how best to proceed with pursuing an outcome.

Section 10 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* states everyone has the right on arrest or detention to be informed promptly of the reasons therefore, to retain and instruct counsel without delay and to be informed of that right, and to have the validity of the detention determined by way of habeas corpus and to be released if the detention is not lawful. The rights in section 10 apply when a person is arrested or detained. They ensure people under arrest have a chance to challenge the lawfulness of their arrest. The police must tell them quickly the reasons for their arrest. People under arrest or being detained also have the right to talk to a lawyer to get legal advice about their situation, and the police must tell them what legal aid services are available in their area.

As your matter is a complex one, you may want to consider seeking professional legal advice. If you do not have a lawyer, the Law Society of Alberta (LSA) offers a web-based tool, the Lawyer Directory, which provides a quick and easy way to find a lawyer in Alberta. This directory is an online search tool that lets you find a lawyer based on certain criteria, including name, city or town, practice areas, languages spoken and more. It provides contact information for more than 10,000 lawyers in Alberta with experience in a variety of practice areas. The Lawyer Directory can be found online at <https://lsa.memberpro.net>.

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Further information can be found online at <https://www.lawsociety.ab.ca/public/lawyer-referral/>. Additional resources for finding legal assistance are available online at: <https://www.alberta.ca/legal-assistance.aspx>. Legal Aid Alberta also provides a range of legal services for those who meet their eligibility requirements. You can contact Legal Aid Alberta at 1-866-845-3425 or visit their website at: [www.legalaid.ab.ca](http://www.legalaid.ab.ca) for more information.

The LSA serves the public interest by promoting a high standard of legal services and professional conduct through the governance and regulation of an independent legal profession. As a self-governing profession, Alberta's lawyers are expected to conduct themselves and their law practices in ways which are ethical and above reproach. The LSA's Code of Conduct defines the principles and high standards which are applied to every lawyer in Alberta. Lawyers who fail to adhere to the Code may be disciplined by the LSA. Further information on the complaint process can be found online at <https://www.lawsociety.ab.ca/public/complaints/>.

In Alberta, the municipal police complaints, discipline, and appeal process is legislated in the *Police Act* and Police Service Regulation. Complaints about the conduct of members are often delegated by the Chief of Police to the police service's Professional Standards Branch or equivalent for investigation. Should you wish to file a complaint about the on-duty conduct of an EPS police officer, you may do so by contacting the Professional Standards Branch (PSB) at 780-421-2676 or submit a complaint at: <https://www.edmontonpolice.ca/ContactEPS/Concerns>.

Alternatively, complaints may be filed with the Public Complaint Director of the Edmonton Police Commission (EPC). The EPC is an independent civilian body appointed to provide oversight of the EPS. The EPC may be reached at 780-414-7510. Information about filing a complaint with the EPC may be found at: <https://edmontonpolicecommission.com/complaints/>.

Finally, as you go through this difficult time, I would like to provide you with information on 211 Alberta. This service provides you with comprehensive information and referrals to financial, legal, community, and mental health resources that you may find helpful. The service can be accessed at <https://ab.211.ca/> or by telephone at 211.

Thank you for taking the time to write and for sharing your concerns with the Alberta government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Wheaton".

For Tracy Wyrstiuk  
Assistant Deputy Minister