



Finding a lawyer or getting legal advice

The Court cannot recommend lawyers but provides resources that may assist you in finding a lawyer, getting legal advice or getting information about unbundled legal services.

You are not required to have a lawyer represent you in any court case. However, it may be a good idea to either have a lawyer represent you, or to consult with a lawyer before going to court. This is especially important if your case is serious or complicated or involves criminal charges.

Duty counsel

Duty counsel are lawyers in private practice who are paid by Legal Aid BC to give legal advice to people in some criminal, family and child protection matters. Duty counsel provide legal advice early in court proceedings when you do not have a lawyer.

[Duty counsel lawyers for family law matters \(Legal Aid BC\)](#)

[Duty counsel lawyers for criminal matters \(Legal Aid BC\)](#)

Legal Aid

Legal Aid BC is a non-profit organization providing legal information, advice and lawyers for people with low incomes. You can phone to find out if you qualify for legal aid services. Telephone interpreters can be arranged for people who do not speak English.

You may qualify for free legal advice for some family law issues over the phone (Family LawLine) even if you do not qualify for a legal aid lawyer. People under 18 charged with criminal offences also have special eligibility for legal aid.

[How to apply for legal aid \(Legal Aid BC\)](#)

Other resources

[GEN 05 Non-Lawyers Appearing for Clients in Court](#)

[Indigenous Justice Centres \(BC First Nations Justice Council\)](#)

[Help understanding legal procedures and completing paperwork \(Amici Curiae \(AC\) Friends of Court\)](#)

[Free or low cost legal advice \(Access Pro Bono\)](#)

[Answers to legal questions by live chat \(Ask JES\)](#)

[Assistance collecting child or spousal support \(BC Family Maintenance Agency\)](#)

[Links to sources of legal advice and lawyers \(Clicklaw\)](#)

[Help with some criminal and civil cases \(Law Students' Legal Advice Program\)](#)

[Legal help for seniors in some matters \(Seniors First BC\)](#)

Unbundled legal advice and services

Lawyers may provide unbundled legal services which means they help you with part of your legal problem and you handle the rest of the case yourself. For example, the lawyer may assist with legal research or preparing documents but may not attend court with you.

[BC Family Law Unbundling Roster \(Courthouse Libraries BC\)](#)

[BC Family Law Unbundling Toolkit \(Courthouse Libraries BC\)](#)

[Accessible legal services to self-identified women and gender diverse \(Rise Women's Legal Centre\)](#)

[Unbundled Legal Services \(People's Law School\)](#)

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