

REFUGEE AND IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES

Refugees are among the most vulnerable legal aid client groups. LAO will launch new initiatives to better address their specific needs, as follows:

- In some circumstances, LAO will issue a certificate to a financially eligible person to seek a deferral of removal by the Canada Border Services Agency.
- In some circumstances, LAO will issue an enhanced certificate to a financially eligible applicant to file an injunction motion (“stay of removal”) in the Federal Court. Such enhanced certificates will provide lawyers with additional hours to file these motions.
- LAO will also expand coverage for making Humanitarian and Compassionate (H&C) applications by increasing the number of hours lawyers can bill to file them.

Failed refugee applicants are barred, under recent amendments to the legislation, from submitting Humanitarian and Compassionate applications for one year following the determination of their refugee claims. As a result, some individuals, including some from Designated Countries of Origin, may be better served by starting with a Humanitarian and Compassionate application, rather than filing a refugee claim first. For nationals of some countries, the success rates for Humanitarian and Compassionate applications are higher than the success rates for refugee claims.

- In addition to the categories of applicants already eligible for Humanitarian and Compassionate application certificates under existing policy, LAO can now also issue a certificate to a financially eligible applicant when:
 - the person is the victim of domestic violence
 - it is in the best interest of non-citizen children (currently restricted to citizens) to remain in Canada
 - the people are facing serious human rights violations beyond the scope of refugee protection
 - the people are electing to pursue Humanitarian and Compassionate applications rather than refugee claims
 - the people have mental health issues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Genevieve Oger
Bilingual Senior Communications Media Relations Officer
Phone: (416) 979-2352, ext.5208 | Cell: (416) 768-4461
Email: ogerg@lao.on.ca or media@lao.on.ca



For more information call Legal Aid Ontario at **1-800-668-8258** or visit www.legalaid.on.ca