

FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID ONTARIO SERVICES

APRIL 1 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2017



LEGAL AID ONTARIO CERTIFICATE SERVICES

Certificates are only provided for the most serious legal matters. A person who receives a certificate from Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) is able to retain one of over 4,000 private practice lawyers in Ontario who participate in the legal aid certificate program.

To qualify for a certificate, clients must be financially eligible and their legal matter must be covered by LAO. The chart on the right provides a guideline for the income eligibility levels to qualify for a certificate. Depending on your income, you may need to make monthly payments towards the cost of some or all of your legal fees. The new simplified test provides flexibility for vulnerable clients, particularly if they have mental health needs, are experiencing domestic violence, or are receiving social assistance.

STEP 1. CERTIFICATE ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLDS

You will likely qualify if your annual gross family income is **lower than column 1**. If it is higher, move to Step 2.

STEP 2. CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

Monthly payments may be required if your annual gross family income is **higher than column 1, but lower than column 2**.

NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS	STEP 1. INCOME MUST BE LOWER THAN	STEP 2. INCOME MUST BE LOWER THAN
1	▼ \$12,863	▼ \$14,888
2	▼ \$22,253	▼ \$26,798
3	▼ \$25,367	▼ \$31,228
4	▼ \$28,664	▼ \$35,873
5+	▼ \$31,817	▼ \$40,447
Single boarders	▼ \$8,456	▼ \$9,766

DUTY COUNSEL & SUMMARY LEGAL ADVICE SERVICES

Duty counsel lawyers help low-income people who appear in court without a lawyer. Financial testing may be required to determine eligibility for some duty counsel services.

Summary legal advice is available to eligible clients through LAO's toll-free number (1-800-668-8258) and in Family Law Information Centres.

DUTY COUNSEL ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLDS

You will likely qualify if your gross family income is **lower than:**

NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS	INCOME MUST BE LOWER THAN
1	\$21,438
2	\$32,131
3	\$36,921
4	\$44,068
5+	\$50,803