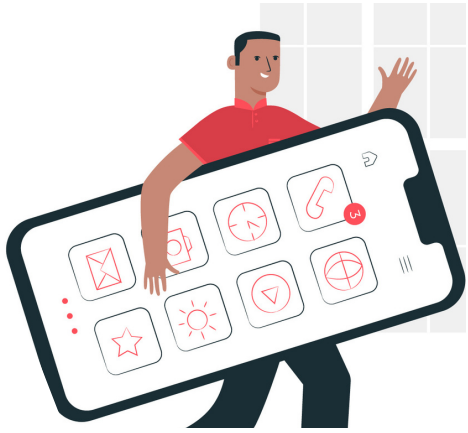


Free legal help for people applying for **REFUGEE STATUS**

If you are in Ontario, Legal Aid Ontario will pay for a lawyer to help you with your refugee claim.

How do I get this help?



Call 1-800-668-8258 (toll-free) to find out if you qualify.
Help is available in over 300 languages.

If you qualify, we will give you a certificate to pay a lawyer to help with your refugee claim.

You can also apply **online** at legalaid.on.ca

What do I do after I get a certificate?

1 You will get an eight-digit number starting with the letters “CE”. (E.g. CE12345678).

Keep this number in a safe place. A copy can also be emailed to you.

2 **If you have a lawyer**, give us their name when you apply. We can check that they accept legal aid work and send the certificate directly to them.

If you don't have a lawyer, visit www.legalaid.on.ca to use our “Find a Lawyer” tool.

Only give your certificate number to the lawyer you want to represent you. Speak with them to make sure you are comfortable with them representing you.




Your certificate covers **all the work** your lawyer or their staff need to do for your refugee claim.

You do not pay them. Legal Aid Ontario pays them.

What will my lawyer do?

* Interview you and advise you on what information to include in your Basis of Claim (BOC) form.

* Make sure your BOC is complete and accurate, and that you understand it. Read it carefully before signing and keep a copy.

 *Legal Aid Ontario will pay for an interpreter to read your BOC to you in your language before you sign it.*

* Tell you what documents you need to get before your hearing and how to get them.

* Help you prepare for your hearing.

* Attend your hearing with you.



What else does Legal Aid pay for?



Legal Aid Ontario may also pay for other costs. Some of these include:

- ✓ Medical and/or psychological reports to explain the impact of your experiences.
- ✓ Interpreters for meetings.
- ✓ Translation of documents into English or French for use as evidence at your refugee hearing.

Illustrations by storyset - www.freepik.com

Legal Aid Ontario provides legal services for financially eligible low-income Ontarians in the areas of criminal, family, refugee and immigration, and poverty law.

Learn more at legalaid.on.ca.

