

Legal Aid Ontario Criminal Duty Counsel Services



Service delivery method and times of service may vary by location and by staff resources available. Services are offered in English and French, with free interpretation for other languages.

Type of service	Role of Duty Counsel	Financial eligibility requirement	* Services not provided by Duty Counsel
General legal information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General information about the law, forms and court process • Referrals to community supports and other services 	No	
Bail services (including Weekend and Statutory Holiday Court)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate releases and conditions • Bail hearings and consent releases • Judicial referral hearings 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bail variations and surety substitutions • Bail reviews
Case management services (including video remands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal advice • Review disclosure (evidence) • Administrative court appearances (adjournments) • Referrals to other legal aid services, such as the certificate program, the summary legal advice program and the senior counsel program 	Yes (Individuals in custody and youth considered eligible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trials • Legal advice related to trials • Superior Court of Justice appearances • Administrative court appearances for individuals who are out of custody and who have a lawyer
Negotiations and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate resolutions that do not involve a trial (e.g. withdrawals, guilty pleas, peace bonds, stays, diversion) • Crown resolution meetings • Judicial pre-trials for resolutions • In-court representation for resolutions • Matters in specialty courts 	Yes (Individuals in custody and youth considered eligible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiations and appearances related to trials • Superior Court of Justice matters • Independent legal advice related to trials

* Duty Counsel may provide services to eligible individuals on a case-by-case basis in exceptional circumstances. Please note that these services may be covered on a legal aid certificate. For certificate applications and summary legal advice, call 1-800-668-8258 Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for help in over 300 languages, or see www.legalaid.on.ca/how-do-i-apply.

Legal Aid Ontario places emphasis on individuals in custody, those experiencing intimate partner violence, mental health and/or addictions issues, and those identifying as Indigenous or from racialized communities.