

Legal Aid Ontario Family 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 the Information Referral Coordinator and other services 	No	
Legal advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal advice (e.g. Family Law Information Centre advice lawyer) Referrals to other legal aid services such as the certificate program, senior counsel program and summary legal advice program 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal advice about spousal support and/or property only Legal advice related to trials
Document review and preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motions to Change and claims regarding parenting time, decision-making responsibility and child support 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motions to Change and claims regarding only spousal support
In-court assistance (Ontario Court of Justice and Unified Family Court only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent motions without notice First appearance on a child protection matter Written consents, if negotiations have been completed and the issues are eligible for Duty Counsel service 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motions and trials Legal advice and negotiations for trials Trial management and trial-focused settlement conferences Administrative appearances for individuals with lawyers Claims regarding spousal support and/or property only Default and Warrant of Committal hearings Binding Judicial Dispute Resolution hearings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Responsibility Office matters (e.g. first appearances, refraining motions, adjournments) First appearance/intake court Family law case conferences (up to the end of the second case conference) Urgent motions with notice Negotiations (including resolution focused settlement conferences) 	Yes	

* 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 from 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.