

Amendments to Legal Aid Services Rules: minimum experience requirements



Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) is proposing amendments to the minimum experience requirements (MER) in [Schedule 3](#) of the [Legal Aid Services Rules](#). LAO is proposing to:

- introduce minimum experience requirements for the Ontario Review Board roster
- remove minimum experience requirements for youth criminal and criminal mental health matters

Overview

LAO's minimum experience requirements outline the legal experience that a roster member must have before providing services in specified areas of law.

Minimum experience requirements for Ontario Review Board roster

LAO has an existing Ontario Review Board roster, which does not have minimum experience requirements. Setting meaningful requirements for the Ontario Review Board roster will support clients accessing high-quality legal aid services specific to their needs.

Enhanced training for youth criminal and criminal mental health.

LAO introduced new rules setting minimum experience requirements for two new criminal law sub-rosters, youth criminal and criminal mental health, in August 2022.

LAO has since identified that implementing the youth criminal and criminal mental health MERs is not operationally feasible.

Instead, LAO will be introducing enhanced training for the criminal roster to further improve the quality of service for youth clients and clients experiencing mental health issues.