

# YUKON LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY

## Legal Aid

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Date: April 9, 2020

**Re: COVID-19 Services Update from Legal Aid**

### **Legal Aid applications**

To apply for Legal Aid, contact us at (867) 667-5210.

Until further notice, to protect clients and employees from the spread of COVID-19, Yukon Legal Aid has changed the way we accept applications and there will be some limitations to how we deliver our services. Generally, client contact will be limited to telephone, email, video, and fax. Most Court appearances will be done by telephone.

We apologize for any inconvenience that the changes to our service delivery have caused.

Here is more information about our services:

### **Criminal Law**

Contact us if you need help with criminal law matters. If you are eligible to receive assistance from a lawyer on an on-going basis, you will be referred to a lawyer. If you do not qualify for ongoing assistance but need help with your case before you return to court, we can arrange for a duty counsel lawyer to speak with you on the phone.

In-custody clients will be assisted by duty counsel. All accused who are in custody will attend Court from the Whitehorse Correctional Centre via videoconference. All accused who are not in custody with scheduled Court appearances are encouraged to attend by telephone or have a duty counsel lawyer appear for them. The Territorial Court has been using conference call-ins for regular criminal dockets.

### **Mental Health**

We continue to assign staff lawyers to assist anyone who is the subject of an application under the *Mental Health Act*, including Involuntary Admissions and Transfer applications.

## **Child Protection**

If you have a child protection matter and you require the assistance of a lawyer for your case, a staff lawyer will help you as duty counsel and with applying to Legal Aid. Contact us if you need help with getting access visits to your children or dealing with other issues regarding Family and Children's Services.

## **Family Law**

Family duty counsel lawyers are now available by phone only. Lawyers will not attend in person at family court.

When initial news of the COVID-19 pandemic broke, we had temporarily limited family law services to emergency applications, but we are now resuming full services and are assigning files to staff lawyers again. Our family law coverage includes assistance with custody, access, child support, and other matters regarding children.

Contact us if you wish to apply for family law coverage, speak with family duty counsel, or get more information. There are limitations imposed by the Supreme Court for family Court applications, but we will do our best to work according to those. There are other issues that we are trying our best to address, including client communications, filing, swearing of Affidavits, and signatures.

## **Poverty Law**

Poverty law services begin with a telephone consultation appointment. If you want to book a consultation appointment, please call us. We are continuing to provide coverage for the following poverty services:

- Representing adults who are the subject of applications under the *Decision Making, Support and Protection to Adults Act*, the *Adult Protection and Decision Making Act*, or the *Care Consent Act*;
- *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* matters;
- Matters related to benefits, such as employment insurance, Canada Pension Plan, social assistance; and
- Such additional services as related to housing and liberty.

## **Questions?**

Contact us by telephone or email if you have any questions or concerns.

General inquiries and applications: (867) 667-5210 or [intake@legalaid.yk.ca](mailto:intake@legalaid.yk.ca)

Executive Director David Christie: (867) 667-8362 or [dchristie@legalaid.yk.ca](mailto:dchristie@legalaid.yk.ca)

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