



National Self-Represented Litigants Project East

Nova Scotia Resources for Self-Represented Litigants

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The National Self-Represented Litigants Project East gratefully
acknowledges financial support from The Law Foundation of Ontario



Nova Scotia

211 Nova Scotia

<https://ns.211.ca/>

Call/Text/Email 211

Information for finding legal support, housing/shelter, crisis services/ hotlines, support groups, counselling, prevention and out- reach, abuse reporting, sexual assault treatment.

Access Justice: Bilingual Legal Information

<https://www.ajefne.ns.ca/justiceaccess/>

Phone: 1 (844) 250-8471

A service that provides help to those looking to navigate the legal system, in both English and French. They provide free legal advice sessions including assistance with filling in court forms.

Avalon Sexual Assault Center

<https://avaloncentre.ca/downloadable/>

Phone: (902) 422-4240

The Avalon Sexual Assault Centre works to support survivors and eliminate sexual assault/abuse. At the above link you can find their downloadable resources, including ones on law and definitions as well as the legal system.

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

<http://cmmns.com/>

Phone: (902) 895-6385

Toll Free: 1 (877) 892-2424

The mission of the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) is to promote and assist Mi'kmaq communities' initiatives toward self-determination and enhancement of community. The CMM has a number of plain language public legal education materials to help the Mi'kmaq understand their rights and responsibilities under the law.

Coverdale Courtwork Society

<https://www.coverdale.ca/services-3>

Phone: (902) 422-6417

Coverdale is a community based service in Halifax working with women in the justice system. The Criminal Court Program assists accused persons appearing in Provincial Court in Halifax and Dartmouth. Staff and volunteers explain court procedures and terminology, connect to legal referrals, provide reminders for court appointments, offer practical assistance and emotional support to those appearing in court, as well as their family and friends, help navigate the legal system and assist with transportation. They do similar work for Family Court and Youth Court.

Dalhousie Legal Aid

<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/law/dlas.html>

Phone: (902) 423-8105

Dalhousie Legal Aid is a community clinic that provides legal aid services to people otherwise unable to obtain legal advice. Contact Dalhousie Legal Aid directly about a range of legal issues, including child protection, landlord & tenant, income assistance, or disputes with Nova Scotia Power.

East Coast Environmental Law

www.ecelaw.ca

Phone: (902) 494-7121

The East Coast Environmental Law's mission is to enhance public knowledge about environmental law in Atlantic Canada, and to help achieve this mission that maintain a free Environmental Law Inquiry Service. This services aims to provide general information about environmental law to members of the public who request assistance. It is not designed to be tailored legal advice.

Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia & Cape Breton

Mainland - <https://efrymns.ca/>

Cape Breton - <https://efrycb.com/>

Phone Numbers

Dartmouth: (902) 454-5041

Truro: (902) 897-0852

Sydney: (902) 539-6165

The Elizabeth Fry Society Mainland Nova Scotia addresses the criminalization of women and girls in Mainland Nova Scotia through:

- Providing one-on-one outreach to women and girls in prison and jail
- Providing extensive, rehabilitative programs for women and girls in prison and jail
- Delivering comprehensive programming and services to women in our communities
- Providing housing options through Holly House, our 8-unit transitional housing facility
- Offering support and coordination for long-term housing options
- Encouraging public awareness and understanding of issues related to women involved in the criminal justice system
- Addressing systemic failures and the root cause of criminalization

Free Legal Advice for Sexual Assault Survivors

<https://www.novascotia.ca/sexualassaultlegaladvice/>

Phone: 211

The Legal Advice for Sexual Assault Survivors Program provides up to 4 hours of free, independent legal advice for sexual assault survivors who are 16 years of age or older. You do not have to report to police or take legal action if you use this service.

You can register for the program by calling 211.

Free Legal Services for Workers' Compensation Issues

<https://novascotia.ca/lae/wap>

Halifax Office Phone: (902) 424-5050

Province Toll Free: 1 (800) 774-4712

Sydney Office Phone: (902) 563-2302

The Workers' Advisers Program offers legal services to injured workers who have been denied Workers' Compensation Board Benefits.

Services are offered at all levels of appeals, including at Court in special cases. In general, in order to qualify for services, an injured worker must have reasonable expectation of success in obtaining at least \$500, or the equivalent, in an appeal from a Workers' Compensation Board and the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal. Clients of the program are in a solicitor/client relationship with the program and its staff, in the same way as they would be with any other lawyer or law firm in Nova Scotia.

Halifax Refugee Clinic Advice and Representation

<https://www.halifaxrefugeeclinic.org>

Phone: (902) 422-6737

The Halifax Refugee Clinic is a non-profit, non-government organization serving refugee claimants, refugees and people in need of protection in Nova Scotia. They provide free legal and settlement services to people who cannot afford the services of private legal counsel. They also offer the below resource in multiple languages:

<https://halifaxrefugeeclinic.org/halifaxrefugeeclinic.org/uploads/2021/04/Shelters-EN-AR-SP-FR-Jan-2021.docx-1.pdf>

Halifax Workers' Action Centre - Free Employment Law Legal Information Clinics

<http://halifaxworkersaction.ca/>

Phone: (902) 221-0755

The Workers' Action Centre provides help to workers with labour standards issues, unpaid wages, terminations, workplace discrimination, and more. They provide free, one-on-one assistance at their employment law information clinics.

Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia

<https://www.isans.ca/>

Mumford Road Office: (902) 423-3607

Desmond Avenue Office: (902) 406-3558

Joseph Howe Drive Office: (902) 406-7794

Toll Free: 1 (866) 431-6472

The Immigrant Services Association of Canada provides a wide range of services to immigrants, including helping them navigate the legal system.

John Howard Society of Nova Scotia

<http://ns.johnhoward.ca>

Phone: (902) 429-6429

A non-profit agency concerned with the problem of crime and its prevention. Contains resource papers and services.

Land Titles Initiative

<https://novascotia.ca/land-titles/>

Toll Free: 1 (833) 424-6100

The Land Titles Initiative helps residents in the communities of North Preston, East Preston, Cherry Brook/Lake Loon, Lincolnville and Sunnyville get clear title to their property as well as:

- Migrate their property to the new land registry system (Land Registration Act)
- Estate administration when someone dies (Probate Act, Intestate Succession Act)

To speak with a Community Navigator or schedule a meeting by calling Toll free number 1-833-424-6100 or communitynavigator@novascotia.ca

Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network

<https://ns.211.ca/services/mikmaw-legal-support-network-eskasoni/mikmaw-legal-support-network/>

Phone:

Cape Breton: (902) 379-2042

Dartmouth: (902) 468-0381

Truro: (902) 895-1141

Toll-free: 1-877-379-2042

The Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network runs the the Mi'kmaw Court Worker Program and the Mi'kmaw Customary Law Program that provides legal services and victim support services to Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia Barrister Society

<http://nsbs.org>

Phone: (902) 422-1491

The Law Society offers a list of lawyers licensed to practice in Nova Scotia. Look under “For the Public” at the top of the page. Under the same tab find other useful links, such as the Lawyers Fund for Client Compensation, used to reimburse clients who have suffered a loss as a result of the misappropriation or conversion of their money or other valuable property by their lawyers.

Nova Scotia Department of Justice

<http://novascotia.ca/just/srl/>

Phone: (902) 424-4030

This website contains legal information resources on how to prepare for court if you are representing yourself in court.

Nova Scotia Family Law

www.nsfamilylaw.ca

Phone at Family Law Information Program (FLIP) Centre in

Halifax: (902) 424-5232

Sydney: (902) 563-5761

This website offers important information on family law, processes, and services in Nova Scotia. The website can help you understand your family law issue, what forms to fill out and understand the processes at Family Division.

Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission

<https://humanrights.novascotia.ca/know-your-rights>

Toll Free in Nova Scotia: 1 (877) 269-7699

Local in Halifax: (902) 424-4111

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission can help with cases of discrimination and knowing your rights in terms of discrimination.

Nova Scotia Labour Standards

<https://novascotia.ca/lae/employmentrights/>

Phone: 1 (888) 315 0110

This website outlines the legislation around Labour Standards in the province that employers and employees must follow. The website also has the process for filing complaints, which can be done with the Labour Standards Division when a rule has been broken.

Nova Scotia Legal Aid

<http://www.nslegalaid.ca>

The Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission delivers legal aid via a network of 16 community-based law offices as well as 3 sub-offices. Every regional office deals with Family Law, Criminal Law, Civil Law and social justice issues. Legal Aid Lawyers are seen as experts in their areas of law and “Here to Help” is their motto. There are financial eligibility guidelines for full service (this means a lawyer for your case), but discretion can be applied.

If you like to be represented by Nova Scotia Legal Aid please contact your local office:

Local offices:

Amherst (902) 667-7544
Annapolis Royal (902) 532-2311
Antigonish (902) 863-3350
Bridgewater (902) 543-4658
Bridgewater (902) 354-3215 (Liverpool sub-office)
Dartmouth (902)420-7291 (family law) or (902) 420-8815 (adult criminal)
Halifax (902) 420-3450 (family law) or (902) 420-6583 (adult criminal)
Kentville (902) 679-6110
New Glasgow (902) 755-7020
Port Hawkesbury (902) 625-4047
Sydney (902) 563-2295
Truro (902) 893-5920
Windsor (902) 798-8397
Yarmouth (902) 742-7827

Free Brief Legal Advice at Family Courts

The Nova Scotia Legal Aid Summary Advice lawyers at Family Courts across Nova Scotia helps people who need legal advice on a family law matter, but who do not have a lawyer. The Summary Advice lawyer provides basic legal advice, free of charge, regardless of how much you make or where you get your income. Summary Advice Counsel lawyers do not go to court with people.

You can get basic legal information and advice about how to start or respond to a Family Court Application, help with legal documentation for Family Court, advice on consequences of agreeing or not agreeing to a court order, other aspects of Family Law, including if you are considering possible future Family Law issues and would like some advice. Your case or issue must be somehow related to the court where the Summary Advice lawyer is located. For example, if you are applying to the court in Halifax, you should book an appointment with the lawyer in Halifax.

Courthouse Numbers

Annapolis: (902) 742-0500
Pictou: (902) 485-7350
Antigonish: (902) 863-7312
Port Hawkesbury: (902) 625-2665
Amherst: (902) 667-2256
Sydney: (902) 563-2085
Bridgewater: (902) 543-4679
Truro: (902) 893-5840
Halifax: (902) 424-5616
Windsor: (902) 679-6075
Kentville: (902) 679-6075
Yarmouth: (902) 742-0500

Other Services Provided by Nova Scotia Legal Aid:

Chat Online with a Lawyer

Legal Aid NS also provides a free online chat: each day has a designated subject. To start a chat session, click on the chat icon on the bottom right-hand corner of [NSLA's homepage](#).

Schedule:

Tuesdays 3pm-5pm: Family Law

Wednesday 3pm-5pm: Social Justice. (Landlord/Tenant Issues, Income Assistance, Employment Insurance, CPP Disability ext.)

Legal Clinics

The Office also provides free Legal Clinics around Nova Scotia. Legal Clinics provide seminars and advice around a certain legal topic, for example, “Form Filing”. Check the calendar for more information. To access the calendar, scroll down to the bottom of the home page and look for box on the right-hand side that says “Upcoming Events”. [Click the link “See More”](#).

Court of Appeal Summary Advice

NSLA provides Summary Advice Counsel to dispense summary advice (quick and limited legal advice) at the Court of Appeal. Check [the Legal Aid Calendar](#) to see when events take place.

Legal Outreach

NS Legal Aid provides outreach clinics, where Lawyers go to communities and provide free legal advice on your family law or social justice issue. You can drop in to meet with a Legal Aid lawyer or set an appointment. To see if a Legal Outreach Clinic is happening near you check the [Legal Aid Calendar](#).

Nova Scotia Legislation Library Services

<https://nslegislature.ca/about/library-services>

Phone: (902) 424-5932

The Nova Scotia Legislature allows members of the public to visit the law library and use the collection during regular daytime hours. Library materials may be borrowed through interlibrary loan, with some exceptions: reference books, legislative materials, and fragile texts may only be used in-house. Loans are for two weeks. Staff assistance to the public may be limited depending on the activities of the House of Assembly.

ReachAbility

<https://www.reachability.org/referrals-1>

Phone: (902) 429-5878

Toll-free: 1-866-429-5878

reachability is a charitable organization that operates a Legal Referral Service for people with disabilities. Through this service, persons with a disability may receive a free one hour session for legal advice from a lawyer who volunteers with reachability. The reachability lawyer will not represent you for the whole court process. You will have to pay the lawyer after the first free appointment, unless you make special arrangements with the lawyer.

The Courts of Nova Scotia

<http://www.courts.ns.ca/>

Brochures with step-by-step instructions, frequently asked questions, and examples of court forms for each type and level of court are available on this website. Simply go to the drop-down menu at the top of this

page and select “Level or Type of Court” and choose the option that applies to your situation. There is also more specific information and practical materials of use to self-represented litigants under “The Legal Profession”, and on the home page there is a “Going to Court Workbook” that provides useful information.

Free Legal Clinic

If you are going to the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal in the below listed cities without a lawyer the Free Legal Clinic may be able to help. The Clinic provides information and advice on civil law issues before the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal. Family law issues, except child protection appeals, going before the Court of Appeal also qualify.

- The Clinic does not deal with criminal law issues in either Court, or family law issues in the Supreme Court Family Division.
- There is no income threshold to meet. Everyone qualifies for this free service, as long as your case meets the criteria above.
- You can make an appointment to meet with a volunteer lawyer and law student for a private, free 60 minute session. It is not a drop-in clinic, you must schedule an appointment to be seen.

Halifax

Supreme Court matters: (902) 424-6900

Court of Appeal matters: (902) 424-6937

Sydney

Phone: (902) 563-3550

Truro

Phone: (902) 893-3953

Yarmouth

Phone: (902) 742-0580

The Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia (LISNS)

www.legalinfo.org

Phone (North America wide): 1 (800) 665-9779

The website provides comprehensive information on all areas of the law including new information for self-represented individuals, as well as for volunteers interested in becoming public navigators to assist people in their community who are self-represented and dealing with legal conflict.

The website also provides a guide to representing yourself in Small Claims Court. You can find that here:

<https://www.legalinfo.org/representing-yourself/representing-yourself-intro>

LISNS provides a toll-free legal information line which is staffed by legally trained counsellors from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (1:00-2:00 pm closed for lunch) through which there is access to a Lawyer Referral Service and Mediator Referral Service.

Lawyer Referral Service

You can contact the [Lawyer Referral Service](#) to get the name and contact information for a lawyer in your area. You then contact the lawyer to arrange for a 30-minute appointment. This appointment is \$20 + tax. If you decide to hire the lawyer after the initial appointment, and the lawyer agrees to represent you, you will need to discuss how much the lawyer will charge to represent you.

Halifax Regional Police Victim Services Help with Applying for a Peace Bond

Individuals who wish to apply for a peace bond through the Provincial Court in Halifax and Dartmouth can get support from Halifax Regional Police (HRP) Victim Services. Victim Services volunteers will provide potential and current applicants with information on the application process, assistance to complete the application forms and ongoing emotional support. More information can be found [here](#).

Phone number: (902) 490-5300

Workplace Sexual Harassment Free Legal Advice for Victims

If you have experienced or have been affected by workplace sexual harassment, you can get up to 4 hours of free legal advice, find more information [here](#).

Artist's Legal Information

If you are a Nova Scotia creative professional who needs a lawyer, the Legal Information Society's Artists' Lawyer Referral Service may be able to assist in connecting you with a lawyer who specifically deals with the arts and related legal issues. Depending on your situation they may be able to offer a free initial telephone call or email consultation of up to 30 minutes, free or contingency-based representation, a fixed-fee or fee-for-service retainer and/or referrals to other legal professions. They also have self-representation guides, which you can find [here](#).

You can reach this program at (902) 455-3135 or toll free at 1 (800) 665-9779.

Support for Persons Leaving Situations of Family Violence

Toll Free: 1 (855) 225-0220

Many women's centers and transition houses across the province will provide women with information, support and court accompaniment when they are leaving situations of family violence. If you have experienced domestic abuse, this resource map can help you find the services within your community:

<https://women.novascotia.ca/resource-map>

In particular, 9 Service Providers that note court support or help navigating the legal system amongst their services are:

Autumn House (Amherst and Cumberland County)

<http://autumnhouse.ca/>

Antigonish Women's Resource Centre and Sexual Assault Services Association

<https://awrcsasa.ca/>

Chrysalis House (West Hants, Kings County, Kentville, and Annapolis)

<https://www.chrysalishouseassociation.org/>

Cape Breton Transition House (Sydney)

<https://thans.ca/shelters/cape-breton-transition-house-sydney/>

Third Place (Truro)

<https://www.thirdplaceth.ca/>

Naomi Society (Antigonish)

<https://www.naomisociety.ca/>

Leeside Transition House (Inverness)

<https://www.facebook.com/LeesideShelter/>

Juniper House (Yarmouth, Digby, Shelbourne)

<http://www.juniperhouse.ca/>

Harbour House (Bridgewater, Queen's County): <https://harbour-house.ca/>