

How to apply to Legal Aid

If you are a refugee claimant in Ontario and cannot afford to pay for a lawyer, you can apply for financial assistance from the Government.

What is Legal Aid?

Legal AID is a financial aid for low-income people that the Government of Ontario provides to pay for legal assistance.



Get ready 1



Before you apply, make sure you have all the necessary details available (you will need your personal and financial information so they can verify if you are eligible). Check our Guide at fcjrefugeecentre.org/legal-aid-questionnaire-guide.

Try to apply online 2

Applying online is fastest and easiest, but the process is currently only available under certain conditions, like being new to Canada (4 months max.). Find more information at the Legal Aid website: legalaid.on.ca.



You can also call 3



If you are in Ontario and want to apply to Legal Aid, call 416-979-1446 (toll free: 1 800-668-8258), Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. Call earlier in the morning to reduce waiting time.

Choose your options 4

To apply for this benefit, press the following options after you call: 1-1-4-3-1.



Choose your language 5

They can provide an interpreter to help with you application. Just say your first language when they answer.

Who am I going to talk to? 6

You will speak to two agents. The first one will ask you basic questions, set up your Legal Aid account and issue your client number. The second one will ask more personal questions related to your reason for refugee claim and your finances.



Be patient 7

This call can take around 2 hours.

What are the CLT and the CE? 8

If you meet the criteria you will be provided with a client number (CLT) and a certificate number (CE).



FCJ Refugee Centre
Walking With Uprooted People