



Legal Aid Facts

Snapshot of services 2017/18

The Legal Services Society is the provider of legal aid in BC. Every year we help tens of thousands of British Columbians with serious family problems, child protection matters, immigration issues and criminal law issues. We do this by providing a range of legal information, advice and representation services. Our priority is to serve the interests of people with low incomes, but our information services are available to all British Columbians.

Information services

Publications: Legal information, self-help manuals, and legal aid awareness materials produced by the society.	128,059 publications distributed (excluding Indigenous publications)
Legal Information Outreach Workers: Provide information and referral services in person and over the phone.	7,347 client assists/reached through outreach
LSS website: Features publications on various aspects of the law, as well as information about LSS and legal aid services.	188,967 users
Family Law in BC website: Helps people to understand and use the law to resolve their family law problems.	790,077 users
MyLawBC website: Helps people to develop personalized plans to address common legal problems such as separation and divorce, wills and personal planning, and foreclosure.	41,271 users

Indigenous services (not including advice and representation services)

Publications: Information produced by the society on Indigenous legal issues and rights in BC.	23,351 publications distributed
Aboriginal Legal Aid website: Helps Indigenous people in BC understand their legal rights and connect them to people who can help.	11,233 users
Aboriginal Community Legal Worker: Provides information and limited legal advice to Indigenous clients in Duncan and Nanaimo.	1,869 client assists/reached through outreach
Gladue reports: LSS funds Gladue reports written by trained writers on behalf of Indigenous legal aid clients.	90 Gladue reports completed

The percentage of legal aid clients who self-identify as Indigenous: 41% of child protection clients, 33% of criminal law clients, and 23% of family law clients.



Lawyer advice services

Criminal duty counsel: Provide accused persons with advice about the charges against them, court procedures, and legal rights.	69,088 client assists
First Nations Court duty counsel: Provide advice to people appearing in First Nations Courts.	403 client assists
Brydges Line: Province-wide, toll-free telephone advice service for people who have been arrested, detained, or are under active investigation by a law enforcement agency.	17,381 calls handled
Immigration duty counsel: For people in detention at the Canada Border Services Agency's enforcement centre in Vancouver.	1,113 client assists
Family duty counsel and Family lead duty counsel: Provide advice on family law matters and child protection issues.	37,500 client assists
Family LawLINE: Phone service for financially eligible people that provides information on a variety of family law issues.	2,606 clients served

Lawyer representation services

Criminal law services: For financially eligible clients charged with a criminal offence who, if convicted, face a risk of jail (including house arrest), direct loss of livelihood, or immigration complications.	19,179 client referrals
Family law services: For financially eligible clients facing situations where their safety or the safety of their children is at risk, they have been denied access to their children, or there is a risk that a child will be permanently removed from the province.	3,276 client referrals
Child protection services: For financially eligible clients whose children have been, or are at risk of being, removed from the client's home by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), or clients who are facing legal proceedings initiated by the director of the MCFD, or if there are custody or access issues relating to a child in the care of the MCFD.	2,255 client referrals
Immigration law clients: For clients whose cases have a reasonable chance of success and who need help with a refugee claim, have an immigration problem that could lead to their removal from Canada, or are appealing an immigration decision.	1,327 client referrals