

The FREE LEGAL CLINIC

at the
Law Courts in
Sydney

Sydney Justice Centre
136 Charlotte Street
Sydney, N.S.
B1P1C3

For Scheduling
(902) 563-3550

There is more information about the
Free Legal Clinic on the Courts of Nova

Scotia website:

http://courts.ns.ca/Self_Reps/NSCA-NSSC_Free_Legal_Clinic.htm

The Nova Scotia Access To Justice Co-ordinating Committee wishes to thank the volunteer lawyers and their Sydney area law firms for their enthusiasm and support.

Brogan McKeough

Sampson McPhee

The Breton Law Group

Patricia Fricker-Bates

Prof. Tuma Young, CBU

The Committee notes that the Province's legal professionals already devote a significant amount of their work hours to providing free legal services to disadvantaged Nova Scotians. Without this additional effort, the Free Legal Clinic would not exist.

The Co-ordinating Committee also appreciates the contributions of the students at Cape Breton University.

Going To Court? Need Help?



Get information and advice in
private, one-hour sessions
with a practicing lawyer

Free Legal Clinic

Sydney Justice Centre
136 Charlotte Street
Sydney, NS

WHO IT IS FOR?

The Free Legal Clinic is for people who are planning to take their legal problems to court, have already started a legal action, or are already in court but have little or no experience with the court process. The Clinic is not “needs-based”. Your income has nothing to do with whether or not you qualify for its services.

KINDS OF LEGAL ISSUES

The clinic provides information and advice on civil law matters before the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal. It does not deal with matters of criminal law in either Court. Similar services (Duty Counsel) are available in most courthouses.

Family Law matters (except child protection appeals) going before the Court of Appeal qualify but not those in Supreme Court Family Division (similar help is already provided by Nova Scotia Legal Aid in the Supreme Court Family Division).

If you feel your situation may qualify you to get help from the Free Legal Clinic, you should make an appointment as early in the court process as possible.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications and appointments can be arranged in person at the Sydney Justice Centre, Court Administration Office, Main Floor, 136 Charlotte Street, Sydney, N.S.

This can also be done by phone:

For Supreme Court matters:
902 563-3550

Judges, lawyers and others in the Province’s justice system are aware of this free service and may refer you to the Clinic early in the court process or at any point during your time in court.

WHEN IT IS OPEN

The clinic is open every Friday morning, each week, except on holidays (check with the court administration office).

The private one-hour sessions are held at 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM
(BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

THE VOLUNTEER LAWYER CAN/CANNOT

THE LAWYER CAN:

- Provide you with general information on the Rules of Civil Procedure and Courtroom Etiquette.
- Coach you on how to complete court forms.
- Coach you to be able to identify legal issues.
- Coach you to identify strengths and weaknesses in your case.
- Provide coaching and advice based on the information you provide.

THE LAWYER SOMETIMES CAN:

- Help you draft court forms or other documents.

THE LAWYER CANNOT:

- Replicate the quantity or quality of assistance you receive from a lawyer you retain privately.
- Commission or notarize documents for you.
- Assist you with legal problems that are unrelated to services the Free Legal Clinic provides.
- Serve or accept service of court documents for you.
- Predict decisions judges will make. Take responsibility for the information in any court forms or documents you prepare.