

# Legal help in Vernon BC

## 1) Local Legal Aid Office at 3105 – 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue

Legal Aid will pay for a lawyer to take your case if:

- You meet the financial guidelines and your legal problem is covered.
- Legal problems that may be covered by Legal Aid include: criminal charges, mental health and prison issues, serious family problems, child protection matters, and immigration problems.
- **Call 250-545-3666 (Vernon) or 1-866-577-2525 (Toll free- Vancouver) to find out if you qualify for a Legal Aid lawyer.**

**You can apply for Legal Aid in person at the local Legal Aid office in Vernon.** Mary is the legal secretary who takes applications and determines eligibility. The office is located down from Vernon Lock & Safe at Suite E, 3105 – 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue. **You can also apply in person at the courthouse.**

### Legal Aid Office Hours:

Mon: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (best day to come)

Wed: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Thu: 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

### Courthouse Legal Aid Intake Hours

Mon: 8:30- 10:00

Tue: SALMON ARM

Wed: 8:30 am to 10:00 am

Thu: 8:30 am to 11:30 pm

Fri: 8:30 am to 11:30 am

## 2) Family Duty Counsel

**Where:** Courthouse at 3001 – 27<sup>th</sup> Street

**When:** Mon, Tue, Thu: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Fri: phone 250-549-5422 for times

**What:** Free legal advice on any topics to do with family law issues, such as protection orders, separation agreements, parenting time and access, divorce, child protection, division of assets, spousal and child support. There is a [financial eligibility test](#) to qualify for family legal services.

## 3) Family LawLINE

Phone: 1-866-577-2525

Must pass a financial test but can qualify even if they do not qualify for legal aid.

A Family LawLINE lawyer can give brief advice on your next step in regards to Family Law issues.

### **3) Criminal Duty Counsel**

**Where:** Courthouse at 3001 – 27<sup>th</sup> Street

**When:** Call for times – phone 250-549-5422

**What:** You may be able to get help from criminal duty counsel in Provincial Court if you are charged with a crime and can't get a legal aid lawyer or haven't yet applied for a legal aid lawyer. Criminal duty counsel can give you advice about the charges against you, court procedures, and your legal rights. There is no financial eligibility test to get criminal duty counsel services, and the service is free.

### **4) Legal Clinic by Access Pro Bono**

**Where:** North Okanagan Centre for Collaboration #102 3301 24<sup>th</sup> Ave

**Phone:** Must pre-register by calling 1-877-762-6664 or VWTS Outreach Worker Lorraine Langley at 250-558-3850.

One can potentially receive legal advice for up to half an hour with a lawyer, at no charge. There is a financial test to qualify.

### **5) Canadian Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service**

Have a consultation with a lawyer for up to 30 minutes for a fee of \$25 plus tax.

**Call 1- 800-663-1919 | Mon – Fri 8:30 am to 4:30 pm**

### **6) Vernon Family Justice Centre**

**Where:** #202, 3203 – 30<sup>th</sup> Street

**When:** 9:00 am to 4:30 pm (closed from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm)

**Phone:** 250-549-5644 or toll free 1-888-282-2283

**Get help from a family justice counsellor on the following topics:**

- Guardianship
- Separation agreements
- Child Support/Spousal support
- Parenting Arrangements/Parenting Time/Parenting Responsibilities

There is no charge for their services.

### **7) Legal Advocacy Program**

**Where:** #102- 3301 24th Avenue (North Okanagan Centre for Collaboration)

This is a free service.

See the accompanying poster for details about this Clinic and the services offered.

### **8) LSS Community Partner**

Phone: 250-542-3555 Ext. 208 or Email: [lss@vwts.ca](mailto:lss@vwts.ca) and leave a message re: your legal issue or the publications you need.

This program does not provide legal advice or representation. This program provides legal information, publications, information about online resources, and referrals to other legal services. It also provides limited assistance with forms if someone is unable to secure other help.

### **9) Native Courtworker**

Where: #2 3003 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vernon BC

Phone: 1-877-811-1190 ext.364

When: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9-4:30

Salmon Arm Courthouse by pre arranged appointment Tuesday 9-4:30

This is a free service and Margaret can advocate with anyone in the criminal justice system, whether Aboriginal or Non-Aboriginal.

### **10) Specialized Victims Assistance**

Where: #210 3001 27<sup>th</sup> Street, (Courthouse)

When: Monday –Friday 8:30 to 4:30

Phone: 250-542-3224

Can support any **survivor** of a sexual or domestic abuse crime regardless of whether or not charges have been involved.

### **11) Vernon Courthouse Library**

When: Tuesday 10-4:30

Be specific regarding legal issue or form you are looking for

Can also call # 1-800-665-2570 to talk to a Vancouver Librarian

### **12) Restorative Justice Society – North Okanagan**

Where: 2900 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Vernon (Community Policing Office)

When: Monday – Friday Flexible times to meet the needs of persons serviced

Phone: 250-550-7846

Website: [www.restorativejusticesociety.ca](http://www.restorativejusticesociety.ca)

Restorative justice is for the person harmed (victim) first and foremost with a focus on the person who caused harm (offender). Participation is voluntary. The person harmed agrees to the referral. The person who caused harm must admit to the harm (crime or wrong-doing) and agrees to the referral. Referrals for restorative justice are received directly from the RCMP and other referral sources within the Vernon/North Okanagan area.

## **WEBSITES:**

**Legal Services Society / Legal Aid BC:** [www.legalaid.bc.ca](http://www.legalaid.bc.ca)

**Aboriginal Legal Aid in BC:** [www.aboriginal.legalaid.bc.ca](http://www.aboriginal.legalaid.bc.ca)

**Family Law in British Columbia:** [www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca](http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca)

**MyLawBC:** [www.mylawbc.com](http://www.mylawbc.com)