

LEGAL RESOURCES

The Office of Legal Services at McMaster University often receives inquiries from students with legal questions of a personal nature. The following resources can be used by students for various areas of law, including landlord and tenant matters, personal legal claims, employment law / human rights, and accident / insurance. For internal matters related to the University, various University policies, procedures and guidelines which are available at the following link: <https://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/index.html#>

The resources listed below include community legal clinics, government websites, and administrative tribunals.

Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

100 Main St E, Suite 203 (2nd Floor) Hamilton, ON L8N 3W4, phone: 905-527-4572

<https://www.hamiltonjustice.ca/index2>

Eligibility: The Clinic will provide legal advice over the phone or for walk in inquiries for the areas of law listed below. In order to represent an individual, there is financial criteria that must be met. The services of the Clinic are focused on those individuals who may not otherwise be able to afford legal representation.

Areas of Law: Tenant rights, Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, human rights matters within mandate, affidavits, notarial services and wills. Matters such as employment standards and consumer protection are by referral only.

Landlord & Tenant Board

<http://www.sjto.gov.on.ca/lrb/contact/>

The role of the Landlord and Tenant Board is to:

- resolve disputes between landlords and tenants through mediation or adjudication
- resolve eviction applications from co-ops
- provide information to landlords and tenants about their rights and responsibilities

The Landlord & Tenant Board website contains information on the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants under the *Residential Tenancies Act* and contains information on practices and procedures. Applications can be filed for a number of different types of landlord and tenant matters.

Ministry of Labour – Employment Standards

<https://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/es/index.php>

Employment Standards Information Centre: 1-800-531-5551

The *Employment Standards Act, 2000* (“ESA”) provides minimum standards for many employees working in Ontario. It sets out the rights and responsibilities of employees and employers in most Ontario workplaces. The ESA covers a wide range of employment standards including: hours of work, eating and rest periods, payment of wages, overtime pay, leaves of absence, public

holidays, vacation, termination pay, equal pay for equal work, and temporary help agencies. Additional information on employment standards is located on the Employment Standards website. The Ministry of Labour becomes involved in both enforcement and compliance matters. A process for resolving complaints is available on the website.

Ministry of Labour – Health and Safety

<https://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/>

Ministry of Labour Health & Safety Contact Centre: 1-877-202-0008

The Ministry of Labour has a health and safety division which focuses on preventing work-related injury and illness in the workplace. Information regarding health and safety is available on the Ministry's website and workplace incidents can also be reported to the Ministry.

Human Rights

<http://ohrc.on.ca/en>

The website for the Human Rights Commission of Ontario contains educational materials and webinars relating to the protected grounds under the Human Rights Code relating to the protected social areas.

Protected social areas: include Accommodation (housing), contracts, employment and goods, services and facilities.

Protected grounds: age, ancestry, colour, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, creed, disability, family status, marital status, gender identity, gender expression, receipt of public assistance (in housing only), record of offences (in employment only), sex (including pregnancy and breastfeeding) and sexual orientation.

Applications alleging a breach of the *Human Rights Code* can be filed with the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario at <http://www.sjto.gov.on.ca/hrto/>

Law Society Referral Service

<https://lso.ca/public-resources/finding-a-lawyer-or-paralegal/law-society-referral-service>

A lawyer or paralegal referral service is available through the Law Society's website. If a request is made online through the website and a match is available, the name of a lawyer or paralegal will be provided with a free consultation of up to 30 minutes. Additional costs would then apply.

Legal Aid Ontario

<https://www.legalaid.on.ca/en/>

Legal Aid Ontario provides programs and services to lower-income individuals who require legal aid. There is financial eligibility to qualify for these services in one of the areas covered by Legal Aid Ontario. Phone: 1-800-668-8258

Note: the information contained in this Legal Services Guide does not constitute legal advice and is for reference purposes only. The information on the websites listed above may be subject to change and it is recommended that the specific websites should be relied on for the most up to date information.