


Need Legal Information?

Dial-A-Law is a library of scripts prepared by lawyers. It offers general information on a variety of topics on law in BC, but not legal advice. If you need further information, you should consult a lawyer. Dial-A-Law is a free service available by telephone and Internet.

Website dialalaw.org

The menu provides scripts in English, Chinese and Punjabi:

- For English, click on a category that you would like to read and then choose a topic.
- For Chinese, click "Dial-A-Law - Simplified Chinese" on the left hand side.
- For Punjabi, click "Dial-A-Law- Punjabi" on the left hand side.

* Dial-A-Law English and Chinese scripts are available online in audio 

Call **604.687.4680**
toll free in BC **1.800.565.5297**

Dial-A-Law is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Once you are connected:

- Press "1" for English
- Press "2" for Chinese

After listening to the welcome message, you can:

- Press "1" - to enter the script number you would like to hear
- Press "2" - for a complete list of topics
- Press "3" - to request a brochure
- Press "4" - for Lawyer Referral Service's telephone number
- Press "8" - to repeat the message
- Press "9" - to disconnect

Note: You can bypass the welcome message at any time by pressing "1"

How to Use the Lawyer Referral Service

Call **604.687.3221**
toll free in BC **1.800.663.1919**

Lawyer Referral Service is available by phone from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Lawyer Referral Service is a program that refers you to the right lawyer. Lawyers who participate in the program offer an initial consultation of up to 30 minutes at a small fee of \$25 plus taxes.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a consultation?
It is a meeting between you and a lawyer to find out if you have a legal problem. A consultation can last up to 30 minutes and costs \$25 plus taxes.

Who sets up the consultation with the lawyer?
You set up the consultation with the lawyer and inform both the lawyer and their receptionist that the Lawyer Referral Service referred you to them. In some cases you will resolve your issue at the first meeting.

What happens after the consultation?
If your problem requires work beyond the first half hour you and the lawyer can agree to proceed with services at the lawyer's regular rate. Ask the lawyer what their rate is and for an estimate of the fees.

What if I know that I have a legal problem?
Then you don't need a consultation, but the Lawyer Referral Service can still give you a lawyer's name and telephone number for legal help. The lawyer will charge you their regular fee.

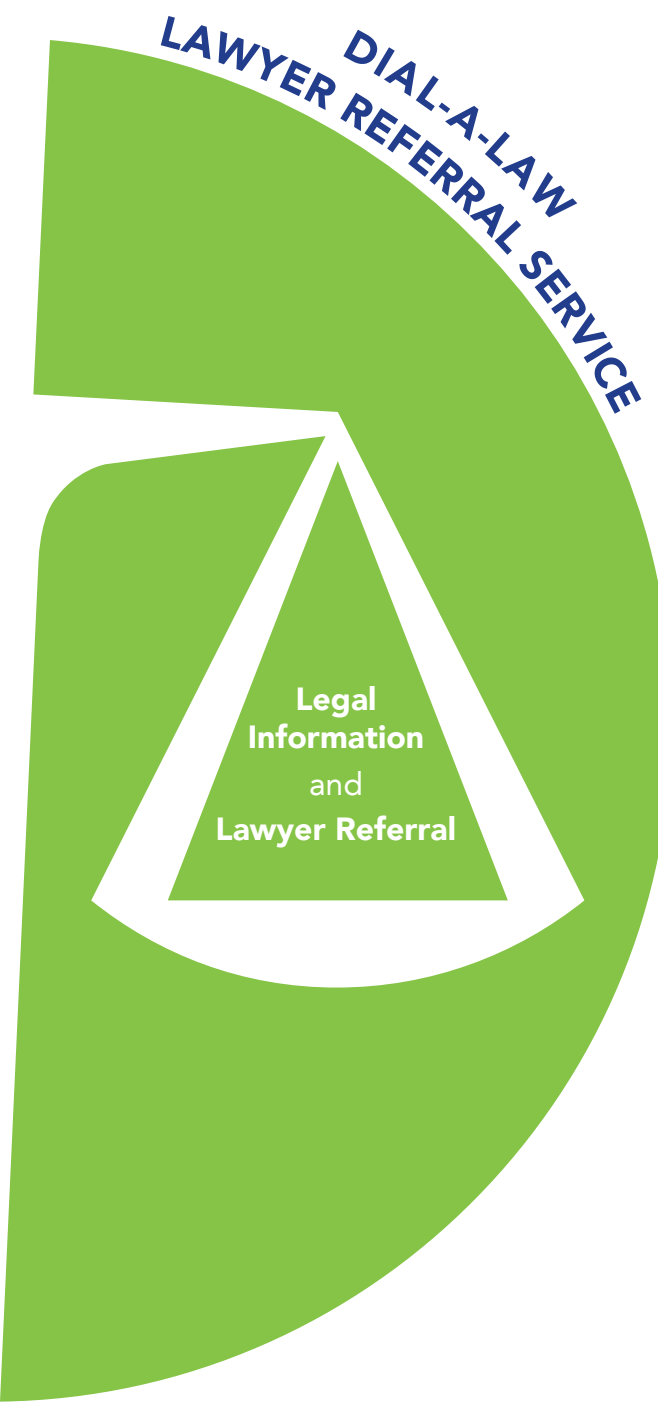
What if I cannot afford a lawyer but need legal help?
Ask the operator at the Lawyer Referral Service to direct you to legal services for people who cannot afford a lawyer, or go to Dial-A-Law and listen to or read script #430 on "Low cost and free legal services."

Dial-A-Law
dialalaw.org

In the Lower Mainland call
604.687.4680
Elsewhere in BC call
1.800.565.5297

Lawyer Referral Service

In the Lower Mainland call
604.687.3221
Elsewhere in BC call
1.800.663.1919



Copyright January 2012, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch. Dial-A-Law is a registered trademark owned by Dial-A-Law, a non-profit membership corporation. Dial-A-Law and Lawyer Referral Service are funded by the Law Foundation of BC and operated by the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch.

Dial-A-Law Scripts

Family Script

Introduction to Family Law.....	114
DIVORCE, SEPARATION OR SUPPORT	
Separation and separation agreements.....	115
Separation: deciding who will move out.....	116
Child support.....	117
Requirements for divorce and annulment.....	120
Desk order divorces: the DIY divorce process.....	121
The respondent in divorce proceedings.....	122
Spousal support.....	123
Dividing family assets.....	124
Enforcing orders and agreements for support.....	132
Income tax implications of support payments.....	133

CHILDREN, CUSTODY OR ADOPTION

Children born outside marriage.....	140
Child protection and removal.....	141
Custody, guardianship and access.....	142
Adoption.....	145
Adoption registries.....	146

COMMON-LAW RELATIONSHIPS

About the children in your family.....	147
Your income, support and property rights.....	148
What happens when your spouse dies.....	150

MARRIAGE, FAMILY VIOLENCE OR OTHER FAMILY LAW TOPICS

Family court.....	110
Mediation and Collaborative Law.....	111
Applying for an interim order in a family law case.....	112
Family violence.....	155
Reporting suspected child abuse.....	156
Getting married.....	160
Changing your name.....	161
Marriage agreements.....	162
Gay and lesbian relationships.....	163

Small Claims Court

What is Small Claims Court.....	165
Suing someone in Small Claims Court.....	166
Being sued in Small Claims Court.....	167
Going to trial in Small Claims Court.....	168
Getting your judgment paid.....	169

Wills, Estates & Power of Attorney

Making a will and estate planning.....	176
What happens when you die without a will.....	177
Your duties as executor.....	178
The disappointed beneficiary.....	179
Power of Attorney and Representation Agreements..	180

Automobiles Script

CAR ACCIDENTS AND ICBC

Insurance benefits and compensation for accident victims...	185
Making a vehicle damage claim.....	186
The points system and ICBC.....	187
Making a personal injury claim.....	188

IMPAIRED DRIVING, TRAFFIC TICKETS OR OTHER DRIVING OFFENCES

Drinking and driving.....	190
Driving while prohibited.....	192
Driving without insurance.....	193
Traffic tickets.....	194

BUYING, LEASING OR REPAIRING A CAR

Leasing a car.....	196
Buying a used car.....	197
Car repairs.....	198

Criminal

CRIMINAL CHARGES AND COURT PROCEDURE

Possession of marijuana.....	201
Shoplifting.....	202
Conditional sentences, probation and discharges.....	203
Outstanding warrants and welfare.....	204
Criminal records and applying for a pardon.....	205
Stalking, criminal harassment, and cyberbullying.....	206
If you receive an appearance notice or summons.....	210
Defending yourself against a criminal charge.....	211
Pleading guilty to a criminal charge.....	212
Charging someone with a criminal offense.....	215
Being a witness.....	216
Applying for a Peace Bond and filing assault charges....	217
Firearms and the <i>Firearms Act</i>	242

COMPLAINING AGAINST THE POLICE

Complaints against the RCMP.....	220
Complaints against municipal police.....	221

YOUTH AND THE LAW

Young people and criminal law.....	225
Youth Justice Court trials.....	226

Housing

BUYING OR SELLING A HOUSE OR CONDOMINIUM

Selling your house.....	405
Buying a house.....	406
Buying a condominium.....	407

Housing Script

MORTGAGES OR FORECLOSURES

Mortgages and financing a house purchase.....	408
Foreclosure.....	415

OTHER REAL ESTATE LAW

Builders liens.....	268
Neighbour law.....	400
Owning a condominium.....	401
Co-op housing: members' rights and duties.....	402
Home repair contractors.....	409

LANDLORD AND TENANT LAW

Residential tenancy.....	410
--------------------------	-----

Employment & Social Benefits

EMPLOYMENT

If you're fired – wrongful dismissal.....	241
Protection against job discrimination.....	270
Sexual harassment.....	271
Farm workers' wages.....	273
Farm workers' rights.....	274
Termination under the <i>BC Employment Standards Act</i>	280

SOCIAL BENEFITS

Applying for Employment Insurance benefits.....	282
Workers' Compensation.....	285
Appealing a Workers' Compensation decision.....	286
Income assistance: reconsiderations and appeals.....	288
Financial help for people with disabilities.....	289

Credit, Debt & Consumer

CREDIT & DEBT

Your bank account.....	245
Buying goods on credit, credit cards and credit bureaus.....	246
Co-signing or guaranteeing a loan.....	248
Collection of debts.....	250
Garnishment.....	251
Harassment by debt collectors.....	252
When you can't pay your debts.....	253
Warehouse liens.....	254

CONSUMER

Door-to-door sales, time-shares and contracts you can cancel.....	255
Shopping by phone, mail or the Internet.....	256
Buying defective goods.....	257
Receiving unsatisfactory services.....	258
Dishonest business practices and schemes.....	260
Class actions in British Columbia.....	233

Dial-A-Law Scripts

Commercial Script

Patents, industrial design, trademarks and copyright.....	231
Music law: copyright and trademarks.....	264
Starting a small business.....	265
Forming a partnership.....	266
Forming a private company.....	267

Your Rights

<i>Charter of Rights and Freedom</i> : legal rights.....	200
<i>Charter of Rights and Freedom</i> : overview.....	230
<i>Charter of Rights and Freedom</i> : equality rights.....	232
Freedom of information and protection of privacy.....	235
Human rights and discrimination protection.....	236
Aboriginal law.....	237
Children's rights.....	238
Elder law, elder abuse & seniors' rights.....	239
Defamation: libel and slander.....	240
Immigrating to BC.....	290

Health

Medical malpractice.....	420
Getting your medical records.....	421
Children and consent to medical care.....	422
Making a complaint against your doctor.....	423

MENTAL HEALTH AND GUARDIANSHIP

Hospitalizing a mentally ill person.....	425
Committeeship.....	426
Adult guardianship.....	427
Adults and consent to medical care.....	428

Lawyers, Legal Services & Courts

LEGAL SERVICES AND COURTS

Low cost and free legal services.....	430
The Law Society, Bar Associations and Law Foundation.....	431
Our court system and solving disputes.....	432
Appearing in court by phone.....	433

LAWYERS AND LAWYERS' FEES

Choosing a lawyer.....	435
If you have a problem with your lawyer.....	436
Lawyers' fees.....	438

To hear Dial-A-Law scripts on all of the above topics call 604.687.4680 (in the Lower Mainland) or 1.800.565.5297 (elsewhere in BC) and use the corresponding script number.