



Ontario Disability Support Program ODSP Some Sources of Information - Toronto Opening Doors 2019 - - March 7, 2019 -

HALCO – HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario:

- Free legal services for people living with HIV in Ontario:
Telephone 416-340-7790 or toll-free 1-888-705-8889
- Intake Hours for new legal inquiries:
 - Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (not Tuesday or Thursday).
 - For more information about getting legal help from HALCO please see page 4.
- HALCO also provides public legal education workshops across Ontario, and is involved in law reform and community development activities:
www.halco.org/our-services



Become a member of HALCO, or, sign up to receive our newsletter and updates:

- www.halco.org/get-involved/membership
- www.halco.org/newsletter-sign-up

Other Legal Clinics and Services

Local and Specialty Legal Clinics (on Legal Aid Ontario website):
www.legalaid.on.ca/en/getting/type_civil-clinics.asp

Legal Aid Ontario (LAO): www.legalaid.on.ca
Telephone 416-979-1446 or toll-free 1-800-668-8258
TTY 416-598-8867 or TTY toll-free 1-866-641-8867

Conseils juridiques gratuits en français par téléphone :
<https://www.legalaid.on.ca/fr/contact/flapp.asp>



Aboriginal Legal Services: <https://www.aboriginallegal.ca/>

Gladue Initiative

Community Legal Clinics Gladue Services Initiative to prepare Gladue Briefs for appeals to certain tribunals, including Social Benefits Tribunal.

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO): www.cleo.on.ca

-print and on-line public legal education materials on many legal topics in English, French and other languages. CLEO website includes CLEO *Discard List* and other links. View CLEO materials on-line, order print copies on-line or by telephone 416-408-4420

-CLEO Legal information is not the same as legal advice info sheet:

http://www.plelearningexchange.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Legal-information-versus-advice_final-1.pdf

-CLEO Steps to Justice: comprehensive online information on common legal problems
<http://stepstojustice.ca/>

Social Assistance Changes Announcements

July 31, 2018, Ontario Government:

- press conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUSMcxNn0S0>
- news release: <https://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2018/07/ontarios-government-for-the-people-to-reform-social-assistance-to-help-more-people-get-back-on-track.html>
- backgrounder: <https://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2018/07/helping-people-with-a-plan-to-reform-social-assistance.html>

November 22, 2018 Ontario Government:

- news release: <https://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2018/11/ontarios-government-for-the-people-announces-plan-to-restore-dignity-independence-and-empowerment-to.html>
- backgrounder: <https://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2018/11/reforming-social-assistance.html>
- Ministry website: <https://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/social/2018Updates.aspx>

Social Assistance/Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

HALCO website: www.halco.org/areas-of-law/income-security

-Important ODSP Update: www.halco.org/2018/news/odsp-update2018nov (see page)

Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC): www.incomesecurity.org

-ISAC is a legal clinic that specializes in income security research, policy, etc. ISAC does not provide direct client services.

- Changes Ontario is Proposing to OW and ODSP: <http://incomesecurity.org/policy-advocacy/changes-ontario-is-proposing-to-ow-and-odsp/>
- ISAC's OW/ODSP/OCB rate chart 2018: <http://incomesecurity.org/public-education/ow-and-odsp-rates-and-the-ocb-2018-les-taux-dot-du-posph-et-de-la-poe-2018/>

Defend Disability: <https://defenddisability.ca/about/>

-healthcare providers, social workers and others concerned about the proposed change to the ODSP definition of disability.

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) Social Assistance publications:

www.cleo.on.ca/english/pub/onpub/subject/social.htm

-CLEO produces legal education resources on many topics. View CLEO materials on-line, order print copies on-line or by telephone 416-408-4420

-CLEO Steps to Justice: <http://stepstojustice.ca/category/legal-topic/social-assistance-and-pensions>

ODSP Action Coalition: www.odspaction.ca

-community advocacy coalition focused on ODSP.

ODSP information from Ontario Government

ODSP (and OW) Income Support Policy Directives:

www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/directives/index.aspx

- ODSP Income: ODSP Income Support Directives 5.1 through 5.18
- ODSP Special Diet Allowance: Income Support Directive 6.4
- ODSP Pregnancy and Breast-Feeding Nutritional Allowance: Directive 6.5
- ODSP Benefits: Directives 9.1 through 9.20
- ODSP Prescription Drug Assistance: ODSP Directives 9.8, 9.10 and 9.19
- ODSP Extended Health Benefit: ODSP Directive 9.10

Social Benefits Tribunal (SBT): www.sjto.gov.on.ca/sbt/

-hears appeals about OW and ODSP decisions.

Telephone 416-326-0978 or toll-free 1-800-753-3895

Ontario's Laws and Regulations: www.ontario.ca/laws

Some related acronyms and abbreviations:

CLEO	- Community Legal Education Ontario
HALCO	- HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario
IDS	- Indian Day School
IH	- Indian Hospital
IJC	- Indigenous Justice Coordinator
IR	- Internal Review (appeal process)
IRS	- Indian Residential School
LAO	- Legal Aid Ontario
ISAC	- Income Security Advocacy Centre
MSN	- <i>Mandatory Special Necessities (ODSP/OW)</i>
ODB	- Ontario Drug Benefit programs
ODSP	- Ontario Disability Support Program (Ontario social assistance program)
OHIP	- Ontario Health Insurance Plan
OHIP+	- Ontario drug benefit program for youth age 24 years and under
OW	- Ontario Works (Ontario social assistance program)
PBFNA	- Pregnancy/Breast-Feeding Nutritional Allowance (ODSP/OW)
SBT	- Social Benefits Tribunal
SDA	- Special Diet Allowance (ODSP/OW)

Please Remember:

The above links are for general information. The law and policies can change. If you have a specific legal question or problem, you need legal advice. Contact HALCO for free legal advice (see next page).



Getting Help from HALCO

- Intake Process for New Legal Inquiries

The HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) provides free legal services for people living with HIV in Ontario. Anyone living with HIV in Ontario can call us for free legal advice. There is no financial eligibility for our legal advice service.

Intake Hours for New Inquiries: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (not Tuesday or Thursday). Our phone number is 416-340-7790 or toll-free 1-888-705-8889. The person who has the question or legal problem should be the one to contact us. Interpreters are available.

One of our HALCO caseworkers is assigned to respond to new intakes each intake day. You do not need an appointment for intake but depending on how busy we are, you may have to wait to speak with the caseworker on intake.

Many legal matters have time limits called “limitation periods”. Please **contact us** as soon as you have a question or problem so that we can have enough time to try to help.

Through our intake process, our staff will ask you questions and may:

- provide legal advice
- help you to represent yourself
- represent you for your case, and/or
- provide a referral to other services.



HALCO also provides public legal education workshops across Ontario, and is involved in law reform and community development activities: <https://www.halco.org/our-services>

People in Ontario can contact their local community legal clinic for information about services in their community. You can find local and other specialty legal clinics using the Legal Aid Ontario website: www.legalaid.on.ca/en/getting/type_civil-clinics.asp

Prepared by:



Jill McNall, Community Legal Worker (licensed paralegal)
HALCO - HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario www.halco.org
55 University Avenue, Suite 1400, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5J 2H7
Telephone 416-340-7790 or toll-free 1-888-705-8889