Making an Enduring Power of Attorney

This booklet is for people who are wondering if they should write an **Enduring Power of Attorney** (EPA). It is about putting your affairs in order and planning for the future. It explains what is involved in making an Enduring Power of Attorney and how one can help you to look after your current and future financial affairs. It describes some common examples. This booklet gives general information only, not legal advice. For that, you need a more detailed self-help publication or legal advice. Please see the last few pages of this booklet for information on where to get this help.

You should NOT rely on this booklet for legal advice. It provides general information on **Alberta law only**. December 2016.
The contents of this booklet are provided as general information only. It is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should consult a lawyer.

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The Legal Resource Centre of Alberta, operating as the Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help people understand the law as it affects their everyday lives. We develop plain language booklets, presentations, and other learning materials to help people recognize and respond to their legal rights and responsibilities. We have a variety of programs, and provide legal information and referrals on many legal topics. For more information, please visit www.cplea.ca.
Table of contents

What is an Enduring Power of Attorney? 4
How do I make an Enduring Power of Attorney? 9
Selecting an Attorney 13
What goes into an Enduring Power of Attorney? 15
When should an Enduring Power of Attorney be reviewed? 19
Glossary 21
Where can I get more help? 24

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What is an Enduring Power of Attorney?

An Enduring Power of Attorney, (EPA) is a written, signed, dated and witnessed document that gives someone else the right, while you are still alive, to act on your behalf with respect to your financial affairs. This can include paying bills, depositing and investing money on your behalf, and even selling your house, if your document gives this power.

A Power of Attorney does not give someone authority to make decisions about your health care – for that, you need a separate document, called a Personal Directive.

When you make an Enduring Power of Attorney, you are the “Donor” and you give your authority (“Power”) to another person (“Attorney”) to deal with your financial affairs. Your Enduring Power of Attorney:

- may take effect immediately once it is signed and will continue even if you lose your mental capacity in the future; or
- may take effect at some time in the future, when an event you specify occurs, usually your loss of mental capacity. This second kind of Enduring Power of Attorney is sometimes called a “springing” power of attorney, because it “springs” into effect when a specific event happens.
- In Alberta, the law that creates Enduring Powers of Attorney is called the Powers of Attorney Act.
An Enduring Power of Attorney must state whether it is to take effect immediately and continue upon your mental incapacity, or only spring into effect upon your future mental incapacity, infirmity or some other event that you name. If it does not include such a statement, it is not an Enduring Power of Attorney and it cannot be used once you no longer have mental capacity.

**What is “Mental Capacity”?**

Mental capacity means the ability to understand information that is relevant to making a decision and the ability to appreciate the reasonably foreseeable consequences of the decision.

**Why should I make an Enduring Power of Attorney?**

You should have an Enduring Power of Attorney because if you suffer a serious accident or illness, you may become incapable of deciding financial matters for yourself (this is called mental incapacity or infirmity). In this event, you authorize someone to act for you and your best interests in conducting your financial and property matters.

By preparing an Enduring Power of Attorney now, while you have mental capacity, you can ensure that your property is managed by someone who knows you and what you want, someone you trust to act in your best interests when you cannot make decisions for yourself. It is a simple and inexpensive way to plan ahead.

If you do not prepare an Enduring Power of Attorney you do not get to choose who will look after your financial affairs if you lose mental capacity.

**What happens if I don’t make an Enduring Power of Attorney?**

If you do not prepare an Enduring Power of Attorney you do not get to choose who will look after your financial affairs if you lose mental capacity. An interested party such as a family member or friend will have to apply under the Alberta Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act to become “trustee” of your property (this is called a “Trusteeship” application).

This court process can take several months, be costly, might result in disagreements among your family members and friends, and might result in authority being given to someone whom you might not have chosen.
Is an Enduring Power of Attorney effective outside of Alberta?

It depends on the law of the particular place where you want to use your Enduring Power of Attorney. If you are going to move or be out of the province for some time, you may want to check with a local lawyer where you are going to see if you need to make new documents, or if you can just make an addition to your existing EPA. For example, some countries just require an additional notarized document created by a lawyer.

Can my bank refuse to recognize my Enduring Power of Attorney?

As long as your Enduring Power of Attorney appears to be properly completed and witnessed and the bank has no reason to suspect that it is invalid, it would have no legal right to refuse it. But it is wise to give your bank a copy of your Enduring Power of Attorney to put on file. If a bank refuses to recognize your Enduring Power of Attorney, speak to the manager and, if necessary, contact a lawyer.

If someone else has evidence suggesting mismanagement or theft and believes that you are mentally incapable, they may ask the court to review the accounts and records your Attorney is required to keep.

What if I, or someone else, discover that my Attorney is mismanaging or stealing my money?

If you still have mental capacity, you may elect to revoke your Enduring Power of Attorney, demand a full accounting and consider making a claim for any lost funds.

If someone else has evidence suggesting mismanagement or theft and believes that you are mentally incapable, they may ask the court to review the accounts and records your Attorney is required to keep. This process is called a “passing of accounts”. They may also report the matter to the Public Trustee for Alberta. This office investigates allegations involving a mentally incapable person who is believed to be at serious financial risk.
Can an Enduring Power of Attorney be challenged?

Yes. Any interested person may apply to the court to:

- question the capacity of the Donor or Attorney;
- determine the validity of an Enduring Power of Attorney, or part of it;
- change, confirm or cancel a decision made by an Attorney;
- determine the authority of an Attorney to provide advice and directions;
- make a decision if the Attorneys cannot agree;
- delay the decisions of an Attorney; or
- make any other order that the court considers appropriate.

The Powers of Attorney Act does not define who an “interested person” is. The Court has the power to decide. The person will need to have some connection to the case.

Can I change my mind after I have made an Enduring Power of Attorney?

As long as you have mental capacity, you may revoke your Enduring Power of Attorney by telling your Attorney that it is revoked. It is best to advise your Attorney in writing. You should also inform everyone that is involved with your income or property. To do so, you should state in writing that you are “revoking” your Enduring Power of Attorney. There is no special form for this statement, which is referred to as a “revocation”, but it must be signed and witnessed, the same way as your Enduring Power of Attorney.

If you fail to inform everyone that is involved with your financial affairs, a court might deem it reasonable for third parties to rely upon the Enduring Power of Attorney being in force, and, as a result, you may still be bound by the acts of your Attorney (although your Attorney would be liable for harm cause by such unauthorized acts).

If you own a home or other real estate, you may wish to consider having a lawyer register notice of the revocation on title to prevent any unauthorized dealings. It is also a good idea to get the original (and now revoked) Power of Attorney back from your Attorney and destroy it.

If you own a home or other real estate, you may wish to consider having a lawyer register notice of the revocation on title to prevent any unauthorized dealings.
How long does an Enduring Power of Attorney last?

An Enduring Power of Attorney lasts until:

- you die;
- you revoke it (if you still have mental capacity);
- you recover sufficiently from mental incapacity or infirmity to resume control of your own affairs;
- a court determines that the Enduring Power of Attorney ceases to have effect; or
- your Attorney dies or quits and there is no Alternate Attorney to take over.

As long as you have mental capacity, you may revoke your Enduring Power of Attorney by telling your Attorney it is revoked.
How do I make an Enduring Power of Attorney?

In Alberta, an Enduring Power of Attorney must be in writing, and must be dated and signed by both you (the Donor) and a witness, in the presence of each other.

Who can make an Enduring Power of Attorney?

In Alberta, to make a valid Enduring Power of Attorney you must be at least 18 years old and you must, at the time of signing, understand the nature and effect of the document.

How do I make an Enduring Power of Attorney?

In Alberta, an Enduring Power of Attorney must be in writing, and must be dated and signed by both you (the Donor) and a witness, in the presence of each other.

If you are physically unable to sign, your EPA may be signed by another person on your behalf – but that person cannot be the Attorney being named, or the spouse or adult interdependent partner of the person being named as the Attorney. In addition, in order for the document to be an Enduring Power of Attorney, it must indicate that it is either to continue, or spring into effect, when the Donor’s loses mental capacity.

In Alberta, an Enduring Power of Attorney must be in writing, and must be dated and signed by both you (the Donor) and a witness, in the presence of each other.
Do I have to use a lawyer to prepare my Enduring Power of Attorney?

You are not required to use a lawyer’s services, but you may wish to consider this, especially if your affairs are complicated. Also, if you anticipate that someone may challenge your Enduring Power of Attorney by saying, for example, that you were not mentally capable when you signed it, it would be advisable to consult with a lawyer. And, although the person to whom you are giving authority is called an “Attorney”, your attorney does not need to be a lawyer.

Although the person to whom you are giving authority is called an “Attorney”, your Attorney does not need to be a lawyer.

What does it cost to prepare an Enduring Power of Attorney?

If you choose to make an Enduring Power of Attorney yourself, your costs will be limited to the price of a guide and pre-printed form that you can obtain at a registry office, stationery store or online legal forms site. If you decide to do this, be sure to read the document and instructions very carefully.

If you choose to use a lawyer, the cost will vary and may depend on the complexity of your financial situation. It may be higher if your lawyer has to use his or her expertise in complicated tax-planning measures, the creation of trusts, or to deal with very large financial holdings.

Often, lawyers will quote a single price for a package of Enduring Powers of Attorney, Personal Directives and Wills, either for one person or for spouses if they make them at the same time.
What level of mental capacity is needed to make an Enduring Power of Attorney and who decides if I have that capacity?

The term “mental capacity” means different things for different types of decisions and actions. In general, however, it means a person’s ability to understand information that is relevant to making a decision and the ability to appreciate the reasonably foreseeable consequences of making or choosing not to make a decision.

For making an Enduring Power of Attorney, having mental capacity means that you:

- know what property you have and its approximate value;
- are aware of your obligations to the people who depend on you financially;
- know what you are giving your Attorney the authority to do;
- know that your Attorney is required to account for the decisions he or she makes about your financial affairs;
- know that, as long as you are mentally capable, you can revoke (cancel) your Enduring Power of Attorney;
- understand that if your Attorney does not manage your property well, its value may decrease; and
- understand that there is always a chance that your Attorney could misuse his or her authority.

If you are worried that someone might challenge your mental capacity, it would be wise to have a lawyer make your Enduring Power of Attorney. You could also ask your doctor for a letter stating that you are mentally capable.

Even if you take these steps, it is always possible for someone to ask a judge to terminate your EPA, and a judge may do so if he or she considers it to be in your best interests.

If you are worried that someone might challenge your mental capacity, it would be wise to have a lawyer make your Enduring Power of Attorney.
Can anyone be a witness to my Power of Attorney? What are my witnesses' responsibilities?

Anyone who is 18 years of age or older and is mentally competent may witness your Power of Attorney. You and your witness must be present together and see each other sign the document. Witnesses must act in good faith and should refuse to witness an Enduring Power of Attorney if they have reason to question the mental capacity of the person who is making it.

Some people cannot act as witnesses:

- anyone under the age of 18;
- anyone who is mentally incapacitated;
- the person being named as the Attorney;
- the spouse or adult interdependent partner of the person being named as the Attorney;
- the spouse or adult interdependent partner of the Donor;
- a person who signed the Power of Attorney on behalf of the Donor; and
- the spouse or adult interdependent partner of the person who signed the Power of Attorney on behalf of the Donor.

Witnesses must act in good faith and should refuse to witness an Enduring Power of Attorney if they have reason to question the mental capacity of the person who is making it.

If an Enduring Power of Attorney is not witnessed properly, it will be invalid.
Selecting an Attorney

Common questions about choosing an Attorney

What should I consider in choosing an Attorney?

The term “Attorney” refers to the person or persons you have chosen to act on your behalf with regard to your financial affairs. The person you choose must be 18 years of age and mentally competent. Your Attorney should:

- be honest and trustworthy;
- be capable of doing a good job. He or she does not need to be an expert but should be capable of handling your financial affairs;
- have the time and willingness to do the job;
- be aware of your wishes and general intent;
- be someone who you can depend on to always act in your best interests.

It is convenient, but not mandatory, for your Attorney to live in the same province as you do.

The term “Attorney” refers to the person or persons you have chosen to act on your behalf with regard to your financial affairs.
Can I name more than one Attorney?

You can name one Attorney or more than one. If you appoint more than one, \textit{(Co-Attorneys)} you can require that they act together ("jointly") or you can have them act separately as well as together ("severally and jointly"). If you include this phrase, either of your Attorneys will be able to act alone on your behalf. If one is away or sick, for example, the other would still be able to sign cheques and give instructions on your behalf. If you do not indicate that they can act separately, they will have to make all decisions together.

If you name more than one Attorney, you should include some way for them to resolve disputes if they arise.

You should also name an alternate Attorney, who can act if your Attorney dies, or cannot for some reason act or continue to act for you.

If an Attorney wants to quit, once your Enduring Power of Attorney is in effect and your Attorney begins to act, he or she must apply to the court for leave to give up the task. This is called "renouncing". If the court grants permission, your Attorney must provide you with notice of the renunciation. If all of your Attorney, Co-Attorneys and Alternate Attorneys named in your Enduring Power of Attorney are unable or unwilling to act, your EPA will cease to have effect.

\begin{itemize}
  \item If an Attorney wants to quit after they start acting, he or she must apply to the court for leave to give up the task. This is called "renouncing". If the court grants permission, your Attorney must provide you with notice of the renunciation.
\end{itemize}

I want to name a specific family member as my Attorney but I’m worried that this will cause conflict. Is there anything I can do to prevent this?

Conflict can often be avoided by telling your family in advance of your choice of Attorney and explaining your reasons. Sometimes, conflict is created because the rest of the family does not know what your Attorney is doing with your money. You can choose to specify that your Attorney keep family members that you list informed about his or her decisions and provided with full information.

You can always name a close friend or a trust company to be your Attorney if family conflict seems unavoidable.
What goes in an Enduring Power of Attorney?

Common questions about what to include in an Enduring Power of Attorney

What should I consider in making an Enduring Power of Attorney?

When making an Enduring Power of Attorney, you should carefully consider what type best suits your needs, who your Attorney will be and exactly what powers you wish to give that Attorney. What instructions will you give them? If you want your Attorney to be able to sell real estate such as your home or cottage, you must give them this explicit power.

If you make an EPA that takes effect immediately, would you still like to work with your Attorney to make financial decisions together; would you like your Attorney to take over all responsibility for your financial decision-making; or would you like something in-between, such as being consulted on major decisions?

If you want your Attorney to be able to sell real estate such as your home or cottage, you must give them this explicit power.
What powers will my Attorney have under my Enduring Power of Attorney?

Unless you restrict your Attorney’s powers, he or she steps into your shoes and will be able to do almost anything that you can do concerning your finances. Your Attorney must always act in your best interests, and is responsible for such things as:

- consulting with you as long as you are mentally competent and to the extent that you desire, to make decisions about your financial matters together;
- taking over the managing of your financial assets and liabilities for what may turn out to be a lengthy period of time, when asked to do so or when you lose mental capacity;
- using your assets first for your support and care, and then, if assets are available, for the support of your dependents;
- paying your bills;
- preparing and submitting your income tax returns;
- maintaining trusts for any dependent children (if any trusts have been created);
- starting or defending a lawsuit;
- buying, changing and re-investing liquid assets such as Guaranteed Investment Certificates or Bonds for you;
- dealing with any legal and/or accounting matters;
- selling real estate you own if you specifically give them that power;
- keeping comprehensive and accurate records of all the transactions made on your behalf; and
- passing on these records to the Personal Representative named in your Will after your death.

Are there some things that an Attorney cannot do?

An Attorney cannot:

- change your Will or make a new Will for you;
- change or make a new Enduring Power of Attorney for you;
- change your designation of beneficiary on your RRSPs, pensions or life insurance policies;
- make decisions about your health care or personal matters.

Attorneys just follow the rules about financial investments in the Alberta Trustees Act. This Act sets out rules about the kinds of investments that trustees can make on behalf of someone else. For more information, consult the Act or a lawyer.
How does my Enduring Power of Attorney come into effect?

Donors can choose one of two ways for their Enduring Powers of Attorney to come into effect:

- it can take effect immediately upon being signed and continue if the Donor becomes mentally incapable of managing their financial affairs; or
- it can take effect only upon a specific future date or upon the occurrence of a specific event, which may include but is not limited to the mental incapacity or infirmity of the Donor.

A Declaration of Incapacity document must be signed for the second kind of Enduring Power of Attorney to come into effect. This Declaration conclusively confirms that, for legal purposes, the Donor no longer has mental capacity. These forms are available from hospitals, care facilities and doctors’ offices.

Your Attorney cannot make decisions about your health care or personal matters.

Your Enduring Power of Attorney should state who must sign the Declaration of Incapacity. You can name your Attorney to be the person who makes this decision. A Declaration will be regarded as conclusive evidence that you have lost mental capacity. If an Enduring Power of Attorney does not designate who is to make the Declaration, then two medical practitioners must complete the form.

Should I require my Attorney to report to me?

Your Attorney is required to provide you with a full accounting whenever you ask for one but, if you wish, you can include a requirement that she or he must provide an accounting at set intervals.

Or, you could require that your Attorney give an accounting to someone else that you name, such as a family member, a financial advisor or the person who acts as your Agent under your Personal Directive.
Should I include a provision stating that my Attorney is required to keep my financial information confidential?

Your Attorney needs to disclose enough information to carry out his or her duties and to abide by the law.

In terms of any additional information, your privacy must be respected unless you specifically authorize your Attorney to disclose information in your Enduring Power of Attorney. For example, you might state that you wish a list of family members to be kept informed of the financial decisions your Attorney makes.

Your Attorney is required to provide you with a full accounting whenever you ask for one.

Should I include a provision for my Attorney to be paid?

It is up to you. Often, an Attorney does not accept a fee if the Attorney is a spouse, adult interdependent partner, family member or close friend. You may state in your Enduring Power of Attorney that you would like your Attorney to be paid and reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses such as parking fees and photocopying costs. If you set an amount, that is the maximum payment that your Attorney can receive.

If your Enduring Power of Attorney does not mention payment, your Attorney can apply to the court for “fair and reasonable” compensation. Co-Attorneys will split the compensation, but not necessarily equally. It will depend on who does most of the work.

You may wish to discuss this with your Attorney in advance.

Is there anything else that I should consider including in my Enduring Power of Attorney?

You should consider the nature of the property that will be administered: is it simple banking and bill payments, or are there complications like investments or rental properties?

For example,

- If you have property or a business in the United States: you may wish/require your Attorney to consult with a tax lawyer with respect to any dealings with that property.

- If you have a piece of property such as a valuable piece of jewellery that you have left to a treasured friend in your Will, you may want a clause in your Power of Attorney saying that the jewellery cannot be sold.
When should an Enduring Power of Attorney be reviewed?

Common questions about reviewing and updating an Enduring Power of Attorney

How often should I review my Enduring Power of Attorney?

- at least once a year;
- whenever there are important changes in your relationships with others;
- if any of your family members or others close to you, get divorced, married or die;
- if your Attorney dies or says that they are no longer able or willing to act for you; or
- if there are any significant changes in your health.

After you review your Enduring Power of Attorney you can decide if it needs to be updated.

You should review your Enduring Power of Attorney at least once a year.
How do changing relationships affect my Enduring Power of Attorney?

In Alberta, marriage, divorce, or entering into an adult interdependent relationship do not affect the validity of an Enduring Power of Attorney. Neither does ending any of these relationships. So, if any of these significant life events happen to you, you should consider whether your EPA still fits your circumstances and make a new one if necessary.

If, after I review my Enduring Power of Attorney, I decide to make a new one, does this automatically cancel the old one?

To be certain that you have only one Enduring Power of Attorney in effect, ensure that each new Enduring Power of Attorney you make includes a phrase indicating that you revoke all previously made EPAs. Try to retrieve and destroy any outdated Enduring Powers of Attorney. Think about who needs to be informed and receive a copy of your new Enduring Power of Attorney.

To be certain that you have only one Power of Attorney in effect, ensure that each new Enduring Power of Attorney you make includes a phrase indicating that you revoke all previously made EPAs.
Glossary

**Adult Interdependent Partner**
A person with whom you are in an adult interdependent relationship.

**Adult Interdependent Relationship**
A term unique to Alberta and governed by the Alberta Adult Interdependent Relationships Act. A “relationship of interdependence” is a relationship outside of marriage where two people:

- share one another’s lives;
- are emotionally committed to one another; and
- function as an economic and domestic unit.

To meet these criteria, the relationship need not necessarily be conjugal (sexual). It can be platonic.

There are two possible ways for such a relationship to exist, through a formal agreement, or if two people have lived together in a relationship of interdependence for at least three years or where there is a child of the interdependent relationship by birth or adoption.

**Agent**
A person appointed to act on behalf of another person under a Personal Directive.

**Alternate Attorney**
Someone who is named in an EPA to act if someone else named can’t act.

**Assets**
What a person owns. Fixed assets are tangible things such as houses, vehicles, furniture or jewellery. Liquid Assets are either cash or things that can easily be converted to cash such as Guaranteed Investment Certificates, RRSPs, pension plans, mutual funds, stocks and bonds.

**Attorney**
A person who is empowered to act on behalf of the Donor under a Power of Attorney.

**Beneficiary**
A person or organization that you leave something to in your Will or a person who is entitled to anything under a trust.
Co-attorney(s)
An Attorney who has powers at the same time as another Attorney. The powers may be over the same parts of the estate or over different parts of the estate. Co-Attorneys can have ‘joint’ powers (they must decide things together) or ‘joint and several’ powers (either Attorney can decide).

Court
References to the court mean the Court of Queen’s Bench of Alberta.

Debt(s)
What a person owes. These can also be called “liabilities” and may include credit card balances, loans, and mortgages.

Declaration of Incapacity
A written document that confirms that a specified contingency stated in the Enduring Power of Attorney, including but not limited to the Donor’s mental incapacity or infirmity has occurred, bringing the Enduring Power of Attorney into effect.

Donor
A person who makes a Power of Attorney or an Enduring Power of Attorney.

Enduring Power of Attorney
A document that allows the person you name to act for you with regard to your financial affairs while you are alive. It can either:

• take effect immediately upon signing and continue if you become mentally incapable of managing your financial affairs; or

• take effect only upon a specific future date or upon the occurrence of a specified event, which may include but is not limited to mental incapacity or infirmity.

Liabilities
All of the legal obligations a person has, including debts.

Mental Capacity
The ability to understand information that is relevant to the making of a decision and the ability to appreciate the reasonably foreseeable consequences of the decision.

Personal Directive
A document created under the provisions of the Alberta Personal Directives Act, the purpose of which is to allow another person, called an Agent, to make personal decisions (including healthcare decisions) on behalf of the person signing the Personal Directive (who is called the Maker).

Personal Representative
The person named in a Will who is responsible for managing the estate and for carrying out the instructions in the Will. (Previously known as an Executor/Executrix)
**Trust(s)**
A trust is a way of holding property. One person (or company), called the trustee, holds and uses property for the benefit of another person, called the beneficiary.

**Trustee**
A person or company named to manage a trust. Trustees have strict legal duties they must follow called fiduciary duties and rules set out in the Alberta Trustee Act.

**Trusteeship Application**
A court application, brought under the Alberta Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act that asks the court to appoint a particular person as the trustee or guardian of an adult who no longer has the mental capacity to make decisions on his or her own behalf, and who has not made an Enduring Power of Attorney.

**Will (or last Will and testament)**
A properly signed, dated and witnessed legal statement of a person’s last wishes as to the disposition of his or her property after death.
Where can I get more help?

Queen’s Printer Bookstore
For print copies of Acts or Regulations call
780.427.4952 in Edmonton
403.297.6251 in Calgary
Toll-free in Alberta, dial 310.0000 followed by the 10-digit phone number of the office you wish to contact.
Website: www.qp.alberta.ca
Electronic copies of Acts and Regulations can be found by searching the alphabetical list at:
http://www.qp.alberta.ca/Laws_Online.cfm
• Powers of Attorney Act
• Trustees Act
• Adult Interdependent Relationships Act
• Adult Guardianship and Trustee Act (AGTA)
Alberta Health

Programs and services for seniors
www.health.alberta.ca/seniors.html

Protection for persons in care
http://www.health.alberta.ca/services/protectionpersons-care.html

Alberta Human Services

Enduring Powers of Attorney Public information webpage
http://humanservices.alberta.ca/guardianshiptrusteeship/opt-represented-adults-enduring-powersof-attorney.html

Guardianship and Trusteeship
http://humanservices.alberta.ca/guardianshiptrusteeship.html

Alberta Supports Contact Centre

Toll-free in Alberta: 1.800.644.9992
Edmonton area: 780.644.9992

For regional offices see:
http://www.health.alberta.ca/seniors/contact-seniors.html

Canadian Legal FAQs

www.law.faqs.org/albertafaqs

- Legal Services
- Wills and Estates in Alberta
Dial-A-Law
Pre-recorded legal information messages available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Toll-free in Alberta 1.800.332.1091

Kerby Centre
1133 - 7 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta, T2P 1B2
Phone: 403.265.0661 Fax: 403.705.3211
E-mail: generaloffice@kerbycentre.com Website: http://kerbycentre.com

Law Society of Alberta Lawyer Referral Service
A Lawyer Referral Operator will provide you with the names of three lawyers in your area that you can talk to about your legal problem. Each lawyer will provide a half-hour consultation free of charge.
Toll free: 1.800.661.1095 Calgary area: 403.228.1722

Older Adult Knowledge Network
www.oaknet.ca

Resolution and Court Administration Services (RCAS)
Counsellors can help you find the right court forms and assist with filling them out and filing them.
They can also refer you to other helpful community resources.
Toll free access in Alberta call: 310.0000 or 1.855.738.4747
www.rcas.alberta.ca
Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton (SAGE)
100 - 102A Avenue NW
15 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB T5J 2E5
Phone: 780.423.5510 Fax: 780.426.5175
E-mail: info@MySage.ca Website: www.MySage.ca

Student Legal Assistance (Calgary)
An association of volunteer law students providing year-round free legal services to individuals who are unable to afford legal services.
3390 Murray Fraser Hall
University of Calgary
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
Phone: 403.220.6637
www.slacalgary.com

Student Legal Services (Edmonton)
An association of volunteer law students providing year-round free legal services to individuals who are unable to afford a lawyer. Call in advance.
11011 - 88 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T6G 0Z3
Call: 780.492.8244
www.slasedmonton.com
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This booklet is one of many publications produced by the Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta. All publications can be viewed and downloaded for free by visiting www.cplea.ca/publications or www.cplea.ca/store

Other publications related to this topic that may interest you include:

- Making a Will
- Making a Personal Directive
- Being an Attorney Under an Enduring Power of Attorney
- Being a Personal Representative
- Being an Agent
- General Powers of Attorney
- Planning Your Own Funeral
- Adult Guardianship and Trustee Act

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You should NOT rely on this booklet for legal advice. It provides general information on Alberta law only. December 2016.