



Type of law:  
**CRIMINAL LAW**

A 2020 Alberta Guide to the Law

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# Guilty Pleas & Sentencing



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# COMMON SENTENCES

## Diversion Program

The charges against you may be dropped if you complete an Alternative Measures or Mental Health Diversion Program.

## Peace Bond

You agree that you will keep the peace & be of good behaviour. This will allow you to avoid a conviction & a criminal record. You may also agree to other conditions.

## Probation

You are ordered to follow certain probation conditions, ex: no contact with certain people, reporting to a Probation Officer, or performing community service.

## Fine

## Imprisonment

## Additional Order(s)

Ex. an order preventing you from driving, an order to provide a DNA sample, or an order forcing you to give up weapons or money made from crime.

# AVOIDING A HARSH SENTENCE



Always BE RESPECTFUL in Court. This means being on time, dressing appropriately, and treating everyone courteously. Follow the formalities of the courtroom (addressing the judge properly, remaining quiet, standing to speak)



Consider calling the Prosecutor's office to try negotiating. If you are charged with more than one offence, you may be able to convince the Prosecutor to drop one or more of the charges.



When SPEAKING TO SENTENCE, emphasize the positive things about your character. You want to paint a good picture of yourself, while being honest at the same time. If there were any "mitigating circumstances" that led you to commit the offence, be sure to mention them (ex. stealing food to feed your hungry children)



Hire a CRIMINAL DEFENCE LAWYER. If you cannot afford one, speak with Legal Aid Alberta or Student Legal Services of Edmonton.

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## GUILTY PLEAS AND SENTENCING

### INTRODUCTION

When a person decides to enter a guilty plea, there are a number of steps that he or she can take to hopefully receive a less harsh sentence. This pamphlet will outline some of these steps, as well as present some of the different types of sentences that a guilty person may face.

### GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

It is important to make a positive impression on the Judge. Here are a few ways to do that:

1. Be on time for Court.
2. Look respectable and dress neatly.
  - a. Wear a suit and a tie, or dress pants and a blouse or dress shirt. You should never wear a hat, shorts, or a tank-top in Court.
  - b. If you do not have dress clothes, wear something clean and presentable.
3. Speak clearly and always stand when you are speaking to a Judge. You should also stand when the Judge is speaking to you.
4. Always be respectful and courteous towards the Judge and everyone else in Court.
  - a. Do not interrupt anyone who is talking. Address the Judge as “Your Honour”; or use “Sir” for a male Judge and “Ma’am” for a female Judge.
5. If you are waiting for your turn and Court is in session, try to be quiet.
  - a. If you need to have a conversation, leave the courtroom.
6. When entering and leaving the courtroom, it is customary to bow to the Judge even if he or she is not looking in your direction.



### COURT PROCEDURE

#### Before Your Court Appearance

- a. If you are unsure of which courtroom you must appear in, or the date and time of your appearance, you can phone the Provincial Court Criminal Clerk (the phone numbers are at the end of this pamphlet). You will have to tell them your name, your birth date, and what you are charged with. If you arrive at the Courthouse and forget which courtroom you are in, you can find one of the electronic kiosks and type in your name – it will tell you which courtroom you need to attend.
- b. Arrive to your courtroom *at least fifteen minutes* before your Court time.
- c. Check the docket list (the electronic board posted outside of the courtroom) to make sure your name is there and that the charges are correct. (If your name is missing,

go to the Clerk's counter in the Provincial Court Criminal Division. It is located on the main floor of the courthouse in Edmonton).

- d. If you are appearing in docket Court (the courtroom in which you make your first appearance, and reserve your plea, set a trial date, or enter a guilty plea), you should speak to **Duty Counsel**. You most likely will have to speak to a volunteer from the Elizabeth Fry Society to get on the list to speak to Duty Counsel. They are usually found outside of the courtroom and will be wearing purple vests.

Duty Counsel is a lawyer who can help people who do not have representation in docket Court. Duty Counsel will help you:

- i. "reserve" your plea so that you can seek further legal advice
- ii. enter a "not guilty" plea and set a trial date;
- iii. speak to the Crown Prosecutor about your charge(s);
- iv. enter a guilty plea; or
- v. "speak to" sentence.

Duty Counsel lawyers do not run trials. If you are set for trial it is your obligation to find a lawyer (possibly through Legal Aid) or talk to Student Legal Services about opening a file.

### Talking to the Crown Prosecutor

- a. If you plan to plead guilty and you are scheduled to go to trial, you should call the Prosecutor as soon as possible. If you call the Prosecutor ahead of time, you may get a chance to make a deal with the Prosecutor. When you call the Prosecutor's office in Edmonton you should ask for the Public Assistance Unit and make an appointment with a "Duty Crown" to discuss your file. Phone numbers are listed at the end of this pamphlet.
- b. If you want to ask for an adjournment (postpone the trial), it is also a good idea to call the Prosecutor ahead of time to find out if he or she has any objections to the adjournment.
- c. It is sometimes possible to negotiate with the Prosecutor. If you are charged with more than one offence, you may be able to get the Prosecutor to drop one or more of the charges. This may be done by telling the Prosecutor that you are willing to plead guilty to some of the offences but not all of them. Also, if you are charged with a serious offence, you can tell the Prosecutor that you are willing to plead guilty to a less serious offence, and the Prosecutor may agree to reduce your charge.



## Your Court Appearance

- a. When the Judge is in the courtroom you should be sitting in the gallery (the benches between the doors and the bar). When the Court Clerk or the Prosecutor calls your name, walk up to the front of the courtroom and state your name to the Judge.
- b. If this is your first Court appearance, the clerk may read the charge(s) and ask how you want to plead. If you pled not guilty at your first appearance and you want to change your plea to guilty, you must tell the Judge.
- c. Once the guilty plea is entered, the Judge may ask you a few questions to determine that you are pleading guilty **voluntarily** and that you understand you are **giving up the right to have a trial**.
- d. Next, the Crown Prosecutor will read the facts of the offence. Listen carefully to ensure the facts are correct. The Judge will ask you if you acknowledge the facts as read. If there is a point that is incorrect, tell the Judge your view of the incident. If you disagree with a lot of the facts, then you may have to plead not guilty and go to trial.
- e. The Crown Prosecutor will also show the Judge a copy of your criminal record if you have one. The Prosecutor should show you a copy first so that you can make sure it is your record and that there aren't any mistakes on it. If there are mistakes on the record, tell the Judge immediately.
- f. If there is no dispute over the facts or your criminal record, the Judge will ask you if you have anything to say. This is when you will speak to sentence.



## SPEAKING TO SENTENCE

You should prepare to “speak to sentence” ahead of time. There are two objectives: first, you want to describe what type of person you are. The Judge wants to know about your character. Second, you want to describe the circumstances surrounding the offence. The Judge wants to know if there are special circumstances which led to you committing the offence (i.e. severe illness, necessity, personal difficulties, etc.)

As a general rule, emphasize positive characteristics. However, if you spent time in remand for this particular offence, you should let the Judge know straightaway. While you want to paint a good picture of yourself, you must **always be honest with the Judge**.

You may want to talk about the following:



### 1. Your Character

- a. Age and Background:
  - i. Your birth date, where you were born, and where you grew up

- ii. Who raised you when you were growing up (parents, grandparents, foster care, etc.)
- iii. Whether you are married, common law, single, divorced, widowed or separated
- iv. Any physical or mental health conditions that you have, including addictions issues
- v. Whether you are Indigenous, or a member of another minority group. If you are Indigenous, you can speak to Gladue factors. These are factors that recognize the intergenerational trauma that Indigenous people in Canada have experienced due to colonization. An example of a Gladue factor is that you or one of your family members attended a residential school.

b. Family Circumstances:

- i. Where your family lives
- ii. How many children you have, how old they are, and whether they live with you. If they don't live with you, you should explain any financial support you give them and what type of relationship you have with them. You can also mention anyone else who depends on you for financial support (like an elderly parent or a disabled family member)
- iii. Whether you have a good relationship with your family
- iv. Your spouse's occupation, or your parent's occupation if you are a young adult



c. Education:

- i. Your level of education (high school, college education, etc.)
- ii. Your special skills or trades training (i.e. welding, business administration, etc.)
- iii. Where you were educated
- iv. Any school awards or scholarships you have received.



d. Employment:

- i. Where you are employed, whether your work is full-time or part-time, and how long you have been working there
- ii. If you are unemployed, how long you have been out of work and what you have done to look for work
- iii. If you have a medical problem that affects your ability to work, you can give the Judge documentation to prove it (i.e. doctor's letter, etc.)
- iv. Your monthly income (if you are on social assistance such as AISH you may want to tell the Judge because he or she may take it into account when sentencing you)





e. Previous Criminal Record

- i. You don't need to volunteer any information about your record. However, if the Prosecutor mentions it, you can offer an explanation (ex. offence was committed during a rough time in your life, other special circumstances, or that you had problems with drugs/alcohol in the past)



f. Other

- i. This includes any other personal circumstances that you feel may make a good impression on the Judge, or provide some explanation for your actions.
- ii. Any involvement in volunteer or community groups.
- iii. If you are sorry for the offence, you should tell this to the Judge, and include why you are sorry.
- iv. The fact that you suffered embarrassment, financial loss, or family problems as a direct result of being charged with the offence is also relevant.
- v. If a criminal record will have a negative effect upon your life (i.e. you will get fired or will not be able to obtain a job)

## **2. Circumstances Surrounding the Offence**

Generally, you should say nothing about the offence unless mitigating circumstances exist (for example, you were shoplifting to feed your hungry children). If there is no acceptable reason for why you committed the offence, then you are better off saying nothing.

## **3. Gladue Rights**

If you are Indigenous or Aboriginal, the Judge must consider “all available sanctions, other than imprisonment...with particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal Offenders.”

a. What does Aboriginal mean?

If you are Aboriginal, you are also Indigenous. The word Indigenous includes people who are First Nations, Métis or Inuit. If you are from a Band or Métis settlement you are Indigenous. The word Indigenous also includes different groups like Cree, Blackfoot, Saulteau, Dene etc. You do not need two Indigenous parents to be Indigenous. With one Indigenous parent, you are Indigenous. Even if you were raised off reserve, grew up in foster care, or have lived in the city your whole life, you are still Indigenous.

b. How do I ask for a Gladue Report?

You can ask the Judge or your lawyer for a Gladue Report. A Gladue Report is a type of pre-sentencing report. A Gladue Report Writer will ask you detailed questions about the Gladue Factors and prepare a report for the Judge. A Gladue Report takes about two months to prepare.

c. What is in a Gladue Report?

A Gladue Report includes information about Gladue Factors you have experienced and the unique circumstances you face as an Indigenous person. Below are example questions on Gladue Factors:

- i. Do you or your family have a history of colonization, displacement, abandonment, or residential schools?
- ii. Do you or your family have a history of violence, substance abuse, or rehabilitation?
- iii. Do you have any physical disabilities or physical injuries? Do you or any of your family members struggle with their mental health?
- iv. Do you or your family have a history of low income, high unemployment, or lack of opportunity?
- v. Do you have a partner/spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend? How would you describe this relationship? Do you have any children?

d. How will a Judge apply Gladue Factors at your sentencing hearing?

**Branch 1** – The Judge will look at any Gladue Factors that played a part in bringing you before the Court. The Judge will consider if these Gladue Factors affect your moral blameworthiness. The Judge will then weigh your moral blameworthiness against the gravity of the offence to achieve a proportionate sentence.

**Branch 2** – The Judge will consider a sentencing procedure or sanction that is appropriate based on your Indigenous heritage or connection. This might involve the Judge ordering a different sentencing procedure like a sentencing circle, alternative measures program (AMP), or other community-based process. The Judge may also order a different sanction like reduced prison time, placement at a healing lodge, treatment for addictions, or a community-based sanction such as probation, etc.

Branch 2 is often under-used by lawyers and Judges. However, the Supreme Court of Canada strongly affirms the importance of community-based sentences for Indigenous offenders.

“It is often the case that neither aboriginal offenders nor their communities are well served by incarcerating offenders, particularly for less serious or non-violent offences. Where [community-based] sanctions are reasonable in the circumstances, they should be implemented (*R v Gladue*, para. 74).”

e. WARNING: Everything in your Gladue Report will get attached to the Court file and become part of the public record. This means your Gladue Report could be read out loud in the courtroom at sentencing, or later be used during a parole or NCR (Not Criminally Responsible) hearing.

If you are Indigenous, it is not mandatory to get a Gladue Report. You can waive your right to a Gladue Report.

## JOINT OR CONTESTED SENTENCING SUBMISSIONS

When speaking to sentence, both you and the Crown will make a submission as to what you think your sentence should be. These submissions can be joint, or they can be contested.

A joint submission means that you and the Crown have agreed on an appropriate sentence. For example, you both think that your sentence should be a \$500 fine. If you and the Crown agree, you can tell the Judge that it will be a joint submission. While the decision is still up to the Judge, they will only go outside of a joint submission if they think the suggested sentence is very inappropriate in the circumstances. Joint submissions can offer peace of mind because you have a good idea of what your sentence will most likely be.

A contested submission means that you and the Crown disagree as to what your sentence should be. For example, the Crown might suggest you receive a \$1000 fine, and you might suggest a \$600 fine. The Judge will hear these submissions, along with the other information that you provided them about yourself, and make a decision as to what your sentence will be.

## CONCLUDING THE COURT APPEARANCE

The Judge will impose a sentence after both you and the Prosecutor have concluded your submissions. You should stand when being sentenced.

## TYPES OF SENTENCES

The type of sentence you receive after pleading guilty or being convicted is different for each offence, and depends a lot on your own particular circumstances. It is difficult to know what sentence you will get before you go to Court because, ultimately, it is the Judge who makes this decision. You may receive one or more of the following:

### Fine

A Judge may sentence you with a fine and give you a time period within which you are to pay it. If you cannot pay the fine within the given time period, you may ask for more time to pay or you can opt for the fine options program.



### Time to Pay

The Judge will ask you whether you need time to pay the fine. If the Judge does not ask, you should mention it yourself. You will need to have a good reason if you want more than 3 months to pay. If you are granted time to pay, you need to pick up your Time to Pay slip from the Provincial Court Criminal Division Clerk's counter.

You can apply for an extension of time to pay if it is impossible for you to pay by the due date. If you have made reasonable efforts to pay, or have paid off some of the fine, you are more likely to get an extension. To obtain an extension you must apply at the Provincial Court Clerk's Office in the city where you were sentenced **before** the due date. *Do not* wait

until the day your fine is due to request an extension because it takes time for an extension application to be approved by a Judge.

If your fine has not been paid by the expiry date, a warrant will be issued for your arrest.  
[not strictly true; smaller fines will be marked in default]

### Fine Options

If you are unemployed or working part-time, you should consider the Fine Options Program. The program allows you to work off your fine. If you are enrolled in the Fine Options Program and making progress towards paying off your fine within the time given by the Judge, you will likely avoid facing arrest. The address and phone number to the Fine Options Program will be on your Time to Pay slip (and at the back of this pamphlet).

### **Jail Time**



A sentence may include an order to serve jail time. If jail is a possibility, you should make any necessary arrangements *before you go to Court* (i.e. find care for your children, pay rent, or leave your personal belongings in a safe place). You could be taken to jail immediately after the Judge sentences you.

If the Judge does order jail time it may be possible to serve your time intermittently (on weekends for example). You must explain to the Judge why you need to do so (i.e. so that you don't lose your job or to allow you to continue school, etc.). You should bring documentation as proof to show the Judge. You cannot serve a sentence intermittently if you did not pay a fine or if you are sentenced to serve more than 90 days in jail .

### **Probation Order**

Sometimes a Judge will give a sentence that includes a probation order. A probation order requires that for a specific period of time (often six to eighteen months) you must meet certain conditions intended to keep you from re-offending. The conditions might include such things as counselling and drug treatment for substance abuse, community service hours, and a requirement that you check in with a probation officer periodically.



If you do not meet the conditions of the probation order, you will be charged with another offence called Breach of Probation and you will have to go back to Court again.

If you receive a period of probation, you should go to the Clerk's counter and tell them who you are and that you received a period of probation. Wait there to receive a copy of the probation order and then take it to the Adult Probation Office or to wherever the Clerk directs you. If you do not report to the probation officer right away, a warrant may be put out for your arrest. If you are at the Edmonton courthouse, the Judge will direct you to the probation office on the main floor after they sentence you.

Probation is often combined with other sentences, such as a fine or jail time. However, you cannot be sentenced to all three (for example, you could be sentenced to jail time and probation, but *not* jail time, probation, and a fine). Additionally, you cannot be sentenced to probation if your prison sentence is longer than two years.

The maximum probation period you can be sentenced to is three years.

### **Discharge**

Sometimes a Judge will decide that someone deserves a second chance and will sentence the person to a discharge. If you receive an Absolute Discharge, you will not get punished and it will not appear on your permanent criminal record. A Conditional Discharge is like a probation order. The discharge is based on certain conditions which **must be met**. If you meet these conditions for the time period set by the Judge, your discharge will become absolute. If you do not meet the conditions, you will have to go back to Court for sentencing.

Discharges do not appear on your permanent criminal record. If you get an absolute discharge and you commit another offence within one year of when you were sentenced, the discharge will appear on your record when you are sentenced for the more recent offence; if you get a conditional discharge it will stay on your record for three years in case you are sentenced for a new offence. Discharges always stay on the record that is available to police and customs officers, but after a few years a discharge on your record is not likely to cause you any problems.

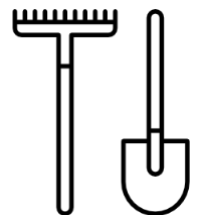
### **Restitution**

If you plead guilty or are convicted of an offence involving theft or property damage, a Judge may order restitution to be paid to the victim. Restitution involves paying back the victim of the offence for either the items stolen or the damage done. The Judge will tell you how much time you have to pay back the victim. If restitution is made a condition of a probation order, conditional discharge, or conditional sentence order, then failure to make restitution by the date in the order will result in a breach of the order and will have criminal consequences. But if restitution is made as a stand-alone compensation order, then it is filed in the Court of Queen's Bench as a civil judgment. The victim has a claim against you and can potentially seize your property, assets, wages, etc. after proceeding through the proper legal channels, such as giving proper notice to you.



### **Community Service**

Community service hours are often given as part of a probation order or as part of a conditional discharge. If you are ordered to do community service, the Judge will decide how many hours you must complete within a period of time. Your probation officer will help you find a place (usually somewhere in your community) to perform your hours.



### **Conditional Sentences**

If you are given a jail sentence of less than two years, you can ask the Judge if it would be possible to serve a conditional sentence instead of going to jail. A conditional sentence allows you to remain living in your own community under the supervision of a probation officer and with certain conditions which will almost always include a curfew. This is often referred to as 'house arrest'. Ask the Prosecutor if he or she would consider a conditional sentence instead of jail.

If you are found guilty of breaking a Conditional Sentence Order, you may be ordered to serve the rest of your sentence in jail.

Conditional Sentence Orders are unavailable if you have committed certain types of crimes such as violent crimes that caused the victim serious personal injury.

### **Alternative Measures**

The Alternative Measures Program is another way for people to deal with criminal charges. You must accept responsibility for your actions in order to be considered for the program. You can try to convince the Prosecutor to let you undertake alternative measures in exchange for the charges being dropped against you. He or she must believe that you are not going to re-offend and that you deserve a second chance. If you are successful, the Prosecutor will refer you to the Alternative Measures Program coordinator who will work with you to determine the task(s) you will have to complete, which might include counselling, apologizing to the victim, making a charitable donation, or doing community service.

If the Prosecutor decides to use alternative measures, you must go to Court to have your Court date moved to a later date. This will usually be for 3-4 months to allow you to complete your alternative measures. When you go back to Court, the Prosecutor will withdraw the charges if you have completed the alternative measures specified.

Only minor types of offences and people without a criminal record are considered for the Alternative Measures Program. If you have previously completed this program, it is highly unlikely that you will be allowed to do it a second time.

### **Mental Health Diversion**

Mental Health Diversion is another diversion program – it is similar to the Alternative Measures Program. If you have been diagnosed with a mental health condition, and you are charged with a relatively minor offence, you could qualify for this program. If you think you meet these standards, you can ask the Prosecutor for Mental Health Diversion.

If you are accepted for this program, you will meet with a mental health professional who will assess your mental health and then work with you to connect you with resources that will assist you. They may also help you come up with goals that you can work toward. If you work to make positive changes, the mental health professional will recommend to the Prosecutor that your charges should be dropped.

## **Victim Offender Mediation**

It may be possible to get your charges dropped by asking to participate in Victim Offender Mediation (called VOM). VOM allows you to work out a solution with the victim of your offence to avoid having to deal with it in criminal Court. If you think that the victim in your case would be willing to try to work things out with you, you should ask the Prosecutor to check into VOM for you (the phone number for the Prosecutors' Office is at the back of this booklet).



## **Loss of Fishing, Hunting, Firearms or Driver's Licence**

Certain offences, such as driving while impaired, require a mandatory licence suspension. This means that the Judge must order that your licence be suspended. The amount of time your licence is suspended will depend on the type of offence, and whether it is your first offence.

For other offences (ex. negligent driving causing death or bodily harm), it is at the discretion of the Judge whether you lose your licence. In such a case, you may want to address why you should be allowed to keep your licence when you are speaking to sentence.



## **PRE-SENTENCE REPORTS**

A Judge or Prosecutor can ask to get more information about you before sentencing. A probation officer prepares the pre-sentence report. He or she may interview you, your family, your employer or anyone else who can provide relevant information. This process usually takes a few weeks.

## **GLADUE REPORTS**

If you are Indigenous or Aboriginal you can request a Gladue Report. A Gladue Writer will ask you detailed questions about the Gladue Factors and prepare a report for the Judge. Gladue Factors include the history of colonialism, displacement, and residential schools and how that history continues to translate into lower educational attainment, lower incomes, higher unemployment, higher rates of substance abuse and suicide, and of course higher levels of incarceration for Aboriginal offenders. A Gladue Report takes about two months to prepare. **WARNING:** Everything in a Gladue Report will become public record. You can waive your right to a Gladue Report.

## **VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS**

This is a written statement prepared by the victim and considered by the Judge at the time of sentencing. It allows victims to describe the impact of the crime on them and their families. If there is a victim of the offence, they may or may not choose to provide a victim impact statement. If they choose to write a victim impact statement, they may read it themselves in Court during your sentencing, or have the Prosecutor read it on their behalf.

## **FINAL NOTE**

This pamphlet only gives you very general information about speaking to sentence. Different Judges and different cities may have their own way of conducting Court. Do not be alarmed if you are confused by the procedure in Court, the Judge will guide you through it. If you have any questions or concerns, you should consult Duty Counsel at the courthouse, contact a lawyer, or contact Student Legal Services for information before you go to Court. You can also call a lawyer or Student Legal Services after you have been to Court if you have any questions about your courtroom experience or about the sentence you were given.

## MORE INFORMATION AND HELP

<b>Edmonton Crown Prosecutors' Office</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, J.E. Brownlee Building, 10365 – 97 <sup>th</sup> Street Edmonton, AB T5J 3W7	<b>Contact:</b> <b>Ph:</b> 780-422-1111 <b>Email:</b> edmontonprosecutions@gov.ab.ca
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The Prosecutors' Office has responsibility for the prosecution of *Criminal Code*, *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and provincial statute offences. This includes working with the community to promote safe communities and implement alternative approaches to the administration of justice.

<b>Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton</b> 10523 100 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T5J 0A8	<b>Contact:</b> <b>Toll free:</b> 1-866-421-1175 <b>Web:</b> www.efryedmonton.ab.ca
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The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton is aimed providing at-risk women and girls with various programs and services. Programs include the Aboriginal Women's Program, Criminal Court Program, Employment Services Program, Financial Literacy Program, Legal Clinics, Imprisonment Programs, and youth programming. Services include smudging, laundry facilities, and drop-in workshops.

<b>Fine Options Program</b> 14605 134 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T5L 4S9	<b>Contact:</b> <b>Ph:</b> 780-422-0730
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This program is run by the City of Edmonton for adult offenders who want to work off fines instead of making payments or spending time incarcerated. Participants complete community work service for a specified number of hours, depending on how much of their fine they wish to pay off through this program. You must have your Court papers and Time to Pay notice in order to register for the program.

<b>Lawyer Referral Service</b>	<b>Contact:</b> <b>Toll free:</b> 1-800-661-1095
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When you call, you will speak to an operator and you will describe the nature of your problem to them. The operator will then provide you with the contact information for up to three lawyers who may be able to assist you. When contacting these referred lawyers, make sure to let them know that you were given their information by the Lawyer Referral Service. The first half hour of your conversation with a referred



lawyer will be free and you can discuss your situation and explore options. **Note:** This free half hour is more for consultation and brief advice and is not intended for the lawyer to provide free work.

<b>Native Counselling Services of Alberta (NCSA)</b> 10975 124 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5M 0H9	<b>Contact:</b> <b>Ph:</b> 780-451-4002
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NCSA provides numerous programs working to support and strengthen Aboriginal individuals and families. These programs include support in court, assistance with child/family service matters, housing and support for at-risk youth, and Aboriginal healing lodges. They do not provide therapy or counselling.

<b>Provincial Court Clerks – Criminal Division</b>	<b>Contact:</b> <b>Ph:</b> 780-427-7868
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The Provincial Court Criminal Clerks are able to assist in providing information for Provincial Court Criminal matters regarding judicial procedures, Court appearances, trial dates, adjournments, outstanding warrants, summonses, subpoenas, witness fees, and payment of fines. It is not their role to provide you with legal advice. *The criminal division does not handle traffic matters.*

<b>Student Legal Services</b> 11036 88 Ave NW Edmonton, AB T6G 0Z2	<b>Contact:</b> <b>Ph:</b> 780-492-2226 <b>Web:</b> <a href="http://www.slsedmonton.com">www.slsedmonton.com</a>
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Law students who provide legal information, but *not* individual legal advice. The students can provide free legal assistance, for less serious matters, to those over 18 & considered low income

<b>Alberta Federal Prosecution Agents</b> 17707 105 Ave NW Edmonton, AB T6S 1T1	<b>Contact:</b> <b>Ph:</b> 780-341-1116 <b>Web:</b> <a href="http://www.abfed.ca">www.abfed.ca</a>
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A private agency serving the Public Prosecution Service of Canada. Their primary role is conducting the prosecution of Federal drug offences.