

Finding Legal Help

Law in Daily Life



Law in Daily Life

We all deal with law every day



Legal Information, Support, Referrals

Various organizations offer public legal education, legal information and referrals to lawyers or other community resources that may help you fix a legal or other problem.

Some offer legal advice & representation.

Legal Information, Support, Referrals

- Do I have a legal problem?
- What kind of legal problem?
- Where can I get legal help?
- I need general information about the law
- What are my legal rights & responsibilities?
- Where should I start...

Legal Information, Support, Referrals

Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia

Free legal information. Any area of law
Lawyer & Mediator Referral Service
Publications & online legal info on many areas of law

200-1663 Brunswick Street, Halifax
902-455-3135 or 1-800-665-9779
questions@legalinfo.org
legalinfo.org, with live chat

Legal Information, Support, Referrals

Access Justice Accès Centre

Free legal information services centre

Services gratuits d'information juridique

200-1663 Brunswick Street, Halifax

902-433-2085 or 1-844-250-8471

info@ajefne.ns.ca

ajefne.ns.ca/JusticeAccess

Legal Advice

- Pay a lawyer
- Apply for Nova Scotia Legal Aid
- Go to a specialty clinic
 - Examples:
 - Halifax Refugee Clinic
 - Workers' Advisers Program (workers' compensation)
 - Free Advice Clinics at Law Courts in Sydney, Halifax, Yarmouth, Truro (Supreme Court)
 - Summary Advice Lawyer at Family Courts (family law)
 - Dalhousie Legal Aid Service (social justice, tenant rights)

A lawyer you would pay

Some ways to find a lawyer you would pay (private lawyer):

- Telephone book, in print, online
- Nova Scotia Barristers' Society lawyer directory
- Lawyer Referral Service (Legal Information Society, ReachAbility)
- Your Employee Assistance Plan
- Your union
- Recommendation from family, friend, co-worker, service provider,

How much?

Some ways lawyer charge for services:

- **Hourly:** retainer, set hourly rate
(for example \$200 to \$450 per hour; experience, complexity)
- **Limited Scope Retainer:** Charge for just part of a case
("unbundled services")
- **Contingency Fee Agreement:** percentage of settlement or
damage award
- **Fixed fee or Fee for service:** flat fee for defined work

Also: disbursements

Nova Scotia Legal Aid

Lawyers for people who cannot afford to pay one

- Apply online or at a Legal Aid office
- Information, summary advice, full representation
- Some level of help for **all** Nova Scotians in these 3 areas of law:
 - Criminal
 - Family law
 - Social justice law (“poverty law”), including income assistance, housing, CPP disability, Employment Insurance
- **Contribution agreement** possible if you are over the financial

guidelines

Nova Scotia Legal Aid

Help for youth:

- Charged with a crime (YCJA)
- Dealing with issues like tickets, school problems, housing, income assistance, family law, and more
- Parents' income does **not** matter



Nova Scotia Legal Aid

- Nova Scotia Legal Aid has 18 community-based offices across Nova Scotia
- Staffed by lawyers
- Some private lawyers
 - Get private practice lawyers through Legal Aid “Certificates “. Limited number of hours, tariffs.

NS Legal Aid – Duty Counsel

Legal Aid Duty counsel: free

- Available to everyone
- Adult & youth criminal law –
brief advice & representation
- Brief advice available province-wide
for family law, by appointment. No
court appearances

NSLA Duty Counsel

- Nova Scotia Legal Aid Brydges Counsel is also available for anyone in Nova Scotia who is in police custody (arrested/detained)
- Free
- Available 24 hours a day, every day of the year

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Appeals

- If you are denied legal aid you can have the decision reviewed to make sure it was not a mistake.
- Reviewed by
 - Committee of the Commission
 - Executive Director

Halifax Refugee Clinic

Halifax Refugee Clinic

provides free legal and settlement support to refugee claimants, refugees and people in need of protection in Nova Scotia who cannot afford the services of private legal counsel.

Artists' Legal Information Society

Artists' Legal Information Society

provides legal information,
workshops and library resources to
emerging artists of all types.

Areas of law: contracts, defamation,
copyright, trademarks, royalties and
more.

reachAbility

reachAbility

provides referrals to a lawyer for Nova Scotians with disabilities.

- Free one-hour consultation with a lawyer
- Also offers help filling out legal forms (but not legal advice)

Law Courts Free Legal Clinic

The

[Halifax, Sydney, Yarmouth, Truro Law Courts Free Legal Clinics](#) offer legal information and advice on civil issues before the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal.

For people who do not have a lawyer.

Civil issues: for example – property disputes, contract disputes, personal injury, negligence, wrongful dismissal

Nova Scotia Workers' Advisers Program

The Workers' Advisers Program offers free legal services to eligible injured workers and their families, who want compensation under Nova Scotia's Workers' Compensation Act.

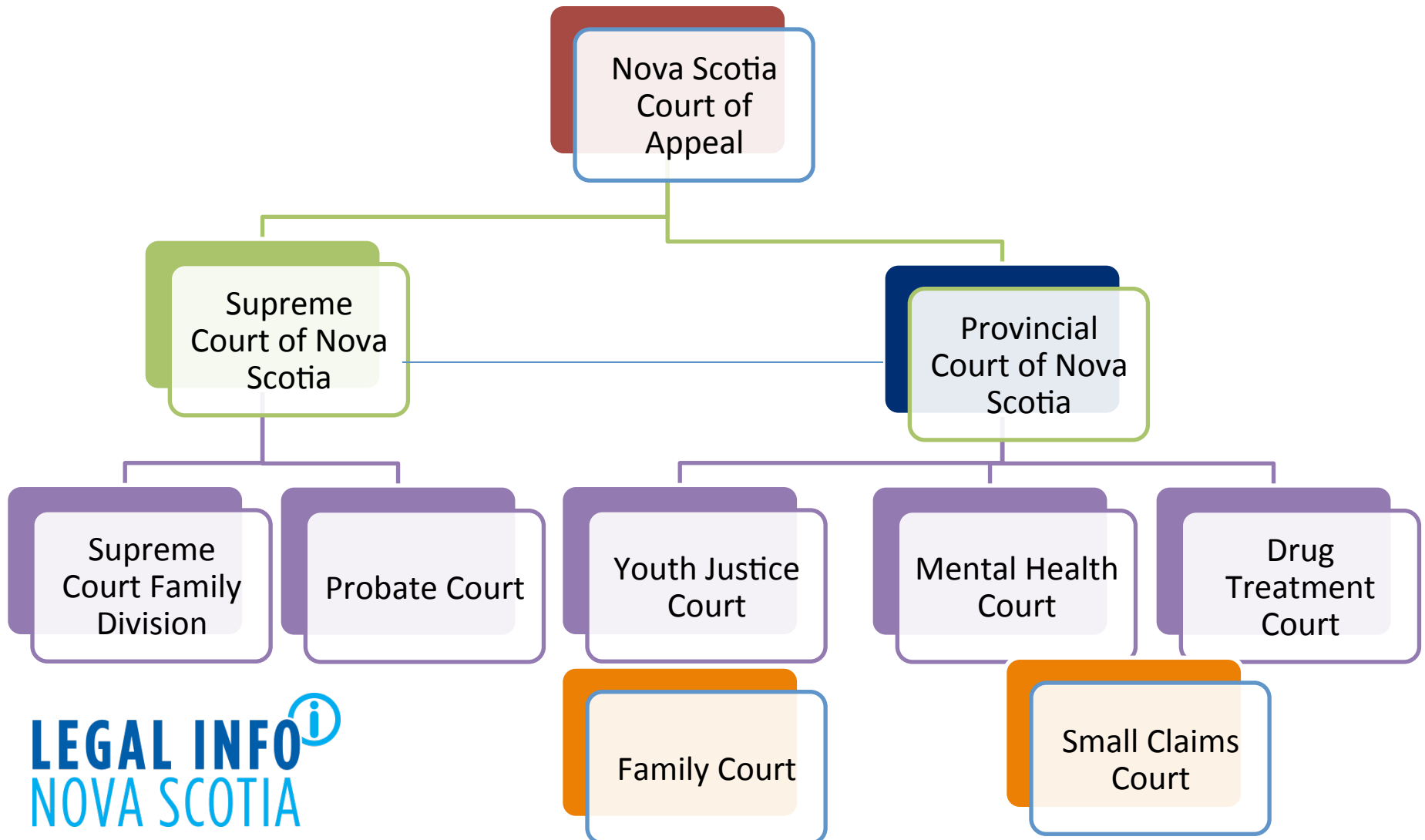
NS FAMILY LAW

www.nsfamilylaw.ca

All about family law in Nova Scotia.

- family law
- family court processes
- family court services

Courts of Nova Scotia



Courts in Nova Scotia

www.courts.ns.ca

The Courts of Nova Scotia

Home

HOME COURT DOCKETS COURT DECISIONS FOR THE BAR FOR THE MEDIA CONTACT A COURT

BROWSE THIS SITE BY:

- LEVEL OF COURT ▶
- TYPE OF COURT ▶
- WHO YOU ARE ▶
- WHAT YOU WANT TO DO ▶
- DOCUMENTS FOR COURT ▶
- JUSTICE & COURT ISSUES ▶
- GENERAL INFORMATION ▶

Keyword Search 

The Probate Court protects heirs, legatees, and estate creditors. It is a forum for adjudication without monetary limits.

It can appoint executors, administrators, appraisers, and guardians in relation to all estate matters.

The Court has the authority to supervise the proper management and distribution of estate assets.

It also approves legal fees and determines the commissions and expenses for executors and administrators.

- COURT OF APPEAL
- SUPREME COURT
- SUPREME COURT - FAMILY
- PROVINCIAL COURT
- FAMILY COURT
- SMALL CLAIMS COURT
- BANKRUPTCY COURT
- PROBATE COURT
- YOUTH JUSTICE COURT
- MENTAL HEALTH COURT
- DRUG TREATMENT COURT
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

OTHER FEATURES

Webcasts of Court Events and Proceedings 

History of the Courts of Nova Scotia 

A Message From The Chief Judge About Nova Scotia's Therapeutic Court Programs

Judges who preside over these programs work in a collaborative environment where therapeutic and restorative practices are used to help people, often vulnerable and marginalized, who struggle with mental health disorders and addictions and who find themselves in conflict with the law.



NEWS OF THE COURTS
Follow the news on Twitter 

Mar 15 - Court seeks submissions on Draft Temporary Practice Memorandum on Physician Assisted Death [MORE >>](#)

Feb 15 - The Honourable (retired) Chief Justice Constance R. Glube passed away on February, 15, 2016.

The Supreme Court of Nova Scotia

- Highest **trial** court in the province
- Civil and criminal issues, family law issues, including divorce and matrimonial property



Nova Scotia Probate Court

The Probate Court

Wills and estate issues

- Administrators, Executors
- Creditors, beneficiaries



The Supreme Court of Nova Scotia - Family Division

- In NS, we have a hybrid family law system
- This court is only available in the HRM and in Cape Breton.
 - Deals with **all** family law issues



Family Court

- Family law issues including:

- child support
- spousal support
- custody
- parenting time (access)
- child protection
- adult protection



Nova Scotia Court of Appeal

Highest Court in Nova Scotia

- Civil and criminal appeals
- Appeals from tribunal decisions, such as the Human Rights Commission, Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal
- Only in Halifax

Administrative Tribunals

Specialize in particular areas of law

Examples:

- *The Human Rights Act*
 - Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission
- *Workers' Compensation Act*
 - Nova Scotia Worker's Compensation Board
- *Residential Tenancies Act*
 - Nova Scotia Residential Tenancies
- *Employment Support & Income Assistance Act*
 - Assistance Appeal Board

Law in Everyday Life

What can you do if...

- A landlord says you must pay an application fee and give 6 months' rent in advance?
- There is mould in your rented apartment?
- Your apartment needs repairs?

Residential Tenancies

Residential Tenancies (Service Nova Scotia)

Government office that helps with residential landlord and tenant disputes.

1 800 670-4357 or
902-424-5200

LEGAL INFO
NOVA SCOTIA



Nova Scotia Legal Aid



Lawyers for people who cannot afford to pay one

- Information, brief legal advice, full representation (depending on income & issue)
- Some help for all Nova Scotians on **tenant rights** issues
- Tenant rights information: nslegalaid.ca

Dalhousie Legal Aid Service

- 902-423-8105
- 2209 Gottingen Street Halifax



TENANT RIGHTS GUIDE



Guide to rental housing in Nova Scotia

Law in Everyday Life

What can you do if....

- Your employer dismisses you after just 6 months, without giving you a reason
- You have a disability that your employer knows about, but your employer will not make reasonable arrangements to accommodate your disability
- Your co-worker repeatedly makes racist or sexist remarks about you

Legal Rights at Work

Start here if you have problems at work

[Labour Standards](#) is a NS government office that provides free information and deals with complaints about how Nova Scotia's Labour Standards Code applies to specific issues at work like wages, vacation, other time off (leaves), and job loss.

- The rules apply to employers, employees (including temporary foreign workers), and recruiters
- Complain within 6 months of the issue or incident
- novascotia.ca/lae/employmentrights/ or 1-888-315-0110 or 902-424-4311

Human Rights

Nova Scotia Human Rights Act:

It is against the law to discriminate against someone by treating them differently based on their

Race	Family status
Colour	Marital status
Religion	Income source
Age	Political belief
Ethnic, national, or aboriginal origin	Gender Identity
Sex (including pregnancy)	Gender Expression
Sexual orientation	Physical or mental disability

Human Rights

Nova Scotia Human Rights Act

Protects us from discrimination in

- Employment
- Housing & accomodation, and
- Places where the public buys goods and accesses services (for example, at stores, restaurants, other businesses).

NS Human Rights Commission

NS Human Rights Commission

902-424-4111 or 1 877-269-7699

- humanrights.novascotia.ca
- Oversees the NS Human Rights Act
- Discrimination is against the law
- A human rights complaint **must** be made **within one year** of the action or conduct giving rise to the complaint, or within **one year** of the last instance of the action or conduct if it is ongoing.
- ASL and language interpreters are available for in-person meetings.

Law in Everyday Life

What can you do if...



Halifax Police stop you while you are driving and:

- You get a speeding ticket

OR

- You are charged with impaired driving

Law in Everyday Life

Information about tickets, including police, points table, disclosure, fighting a ticket, paying a fine

Nova Scotia Summary Offence Tickets

English **Français**

SOT Home

About Your Ticket

Paying Your Ticket

Filing a Notice of Intent

Youth Charges (Under 18)

Finding a Courthouse

FAQs

Contact Us

HALIFAX

HRM Legal Services

HRM Legal Services is a business unit that serves the other business units in the Municipality on legal matters. We are not a public service for legal advice or counsel for the citizens of the Municipality. If you require legal assistance, please call your local Legal Aid office by referencing the contact information provided at the bottom. Please consult the information below if you are looking for information regarding a Municipal Prosecution matter including:

- Motor Vehicle
- Parking
- Prosecution of Property
- Liquor Control
- Emergency 911 Act

I WANT TO:	I SHOULD CONTACT:	MORE INFORMATION
REQUEST DISCLOSURE	Municipal Prosecutions Ph. (902) 490-4233 Choose Option 1 *Please note that disclosure requests are processed in the order that they are received regardless of court date*	Complete Disclosure Request Form by downloading it here and submitting it. Disclosure Request Form By Mail: Municipal Prosecutions 5251 Duke Street 3rd Floor Duke Tower Halifax NS B3J 3A5

NOVA SCOTIA

Justice

Nova Scotia Summary Offence Tickets

The Nova Scotia Department of Justice has recently introduced improvements to our Summary Offence Ticketing (SOT) processes.

One of the biggest changes to the process (effective for tickets issued on or after April 1, 2011) is that we will no longer be holding arraignment court hearings for those who wish to file a plea in person. Instead, SOT ticket holders who wish to enter a plea in response to their charges will be able to file a "Notice of Intention to Appear in Court" form at their local court outlet. Get the specifics about this process [here](#). Those who wish to simply [pay their fine](#) will do so as before.

None of the information offered on this site, or provided by court staff, is intended to take the place of legal advice, and court staff cannot give legal advice. You should speak to a lawyer for legal advice about your situation.

Please note that all the guidelines on this site applies to holders of summary offence tickets issued on or after April 1, 2011 and that the bulk of information relates to people 18 or older. Information on youth charges can be found [here](#).

Residents Business Government eServices 9

LEGAL AID
NOVA SCOTIA

What We Do Legal Information Info

NSLA Legal Information and Resources

Nova Scotia Legal Aid provides legal information and resources to all Nova Scotians including documents that you can read or download, and websites you can visit to:

HOME - HOW LISNS CAN HELP - I HAVE A LEGAL QUESTION - WHAT IS LISNS? - 1

Topics List

- Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program
- Bail
- Being a witness/Agr comme témoin
- Complaints against the RCMP
- Criminal records and pardons (record suspension)
- Drinking and Driving
- Engagements de ne pas troubler l'ordre public
- Going to Provincial Court
- Guide pour les fonctions de jure
- Jury Duty
- La comparution en

Tickets

What do speeding, littering on a beach, parking on the street during a snow storm, hunting while disqualified, creating a disturbance while on a trail, and being intoxicated in a public place have in common? If you do any of them, you might get a summary offence ticket.

This information is for adults (18 or over) who have a ticket. For information about youth tickets (under 18) visit [www.nsjustice.com](#). This page gives legal information only, not legal advice.

- What is a summary offence ticket?
- What is a traffic ticket?
- What is a liquor violation ticket?
- Do you have to give your name and address to the police officer writing the ticket?
- How do I dispute a ticket?
- What if I need time to pay, or cannot pay the fine?
- How do I pay the fine?
- What happens if I don't pay the fine by the due date on my ticket, or don't show up to court on the scheduled date?

LEGAL **Information**
SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA *Start Here. Learn More™*

HOME - HOW LISNS CAN HELP - I HAVE A LEGAL QUESTION - WHAT IS LISNS? - 1

You and the Police

- Where do the police get their powers?
- Do private security guards have same powers as police?
- Do I have to answer police questions if they stop me in the street?
- When can the police search me?
- When can the police stop my car?
- When can the police search my car?
- When can the police search my home?
- What are my rights if I am arrested?
- Do I have to give a statement to the police?
- What are Lie Detectors?
- When can the police breathalyse me?

NOVA SCOTIA CANADA Service Nova Scotia

Gouvernement du Nouveau Brunswick • Régistre des Véhicules - The Registrar General • 902-490-1111

Service NS Home

- [Registry of Motor Vehicles](#)
- [Liquor Services](#)
- [Vehicle Insurance](#)
- [Traffic Services](#)
- [Customer Service Centres](#)
- [Driver Exam Locations](#)
- [Birth Transcripts](#)
- [Other Information](#)
- [Traffic Law Resources](#)
- [Insurance Board](#)
- [Schedule of Fees](#)
- [Complaints to NSIC](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Roadside Assistance](#)
- [What's New in NS](#)
- [About the Department](#)
- [Online Services](#)
- [Services en français](#)
- [Forms and Applications](#)
- [Office Locations](#)
- [Service NS Home](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Registry of Motor Vehicles - The Point System

The Motor Vehicle Act requires that points be assigned to a driver's record as the result of convictions for certain offences under the Act. The points remain on the driver's record for two years following the date of the conviction for which they were assigned. After two years they are removed.

An exception to this, would be when the driver's licence or the privilege of obtaining a driver's licence has been suspended for six (6) months. Upon restoration of the privilege to drive, the points that suspended the driver are erased from the record, but the convictions remain on the record for five (5) years.

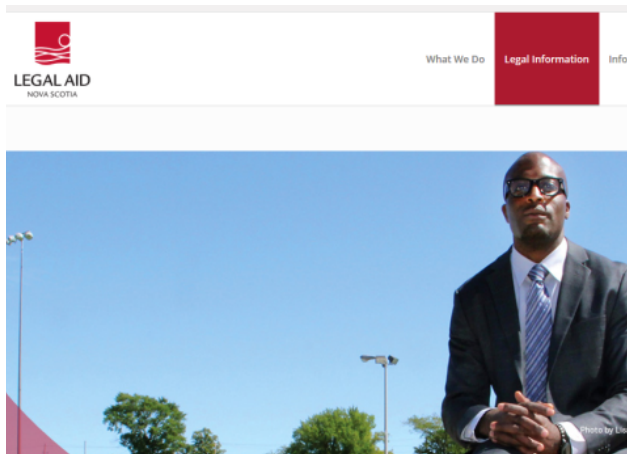
Points will be assigned to your record even if you did not have a licence at the time of the offence.

Point System Table: The following table shows the number of points assigned for convictions under various sections of the Motor Vehicle Act.

Conviction	Section(s) Violated	# of Points
Careless and imprudent driving	100	5
Speeding or dangerous driving	101	6
Failing to stop at an accident or to perform any duty	97	6
Speeding in school bus	103(6)	6
Racing	163	6
§ 14 C exceeds 80	100A(1) (Graduated Newly License Driver)	6
Failure to comply with demand	100A(4) (Graduated Newly License Driver)	6
Passing school bus or failure to take a crossing guard	102(2), 156A	6

Law in Everyday Life

Information about drinking and driving, including police, disclosure, finding a lawyer, criminal law and immigration



NSLA Legal Information and Resources

Nova Scotia Legal Aid provides legal information and resources to all Nova Scotians including documents that you can read or download, and websites you can visit to

This is a screenshot of the 'Drinking and Driving' page on the LEGALinformation website. The header features the 'LEGALinformation' logo with 'SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA' underneath and the tagline 'Start Here. Learn More™'. A green navigation bar contains links: 'HOME', 'HOW LISNS CAN HELP', 'I HAVE A LEGAL QUESTION', and 'WHAT IS LISNS?'. The main heading is 'Drinking and Driving'. Below it is a bulleted list of questions. At the bottom, a note states: 'This page gives legal information only, not legal advice.'

This is a screenshot of the 'You and the Police' page on the LEGALinformation website. The header is identical to the previous screenshot. The main heading is 'You and the Police'. Below it is a bulleted list of questions.

Nova Scotia Legal Aid

- Nova Scotia Legal Aid Duty Counsel is available for anyone in Nova Scotia who is in police custody
- Free
- Available 24 hours a day, every day of the year

If you are charged with a crime

- Contact a lawyer right away
- Tell your criminal lawyer about your immigration status

Nova Scotia Provincial Court

courts.ns.ca

1-877-445-4012



- Serious criminal offences (indictable)
- Less serious criminal offences (summary)
- Tickets and other provincial offences
- You have the right to an interpreter in court
- Right to a hearing in English or French

Law in Everyday Life

What can you do if...

- You have a dispute with a business about the quality of a product you bought & you want to return it and get your money back
- You buy something online and change your mind right after you buy it

Help with consumer disputes

Service Nova Scotia helps with some types of consumer issues.

- 1 800-670-4357 or 902-424-5200



Try the Better Business Bureau

- 902-422-6581 or 1-877-663-2363



Consumer disputes

- Meet and talk about it
- Write a complaint letter
- Ask a neutral person to help
- Ask a mediator to hear both sides and try to help (\$)
- Ask an arbitrator to hear both sides and decide (\$)
- Consider court (\$, time, stress, is it worth it)

Small Claims Court

- Private disputes like consumer issues, debt disputes
- Residential tenancies appeals
- Disputes about a lawyer's bill
- No lawyer necessary
- Claims up to \$25,000
- Informal



Law in Everyday Life

What can you do if...

- You slip, fall, and hurt yourself at a store?
- You are hit by a car and injured?
- You are assaulted?

Insurance and injury law

Civil wrongs (“torts”)

- Injury from car crash
- Slip and fall on someone else’s property
- Injury from someone else’s wrongdoing

May be criminal law too. Assault, for example.

Insurance claim, and speak with a Personal Injury lawyer.

Law in Everyday Life

What can you do if...



- You have questions about recycling juice containers
- You disagree with a ticket that you got at a parking meter
- Your neighbour has very loud parties every night

Municipal laws

- In Halifax area call 311 or 902-490-4000 (interpretation in over 150 languages)
- Noise By-law; Solid Waste Resource Collection & Disposal By-law; Noise By-law; Parking By-law
- What else?
 - Street & sidewalk maintenance, parking, property taxes, animal control, noise, construction & zoning, building permits, public transit, taxi licensing, snow removal, municipal elections...

Thanks

Generous funding for this project was provided by the Law Foundation of Ontario Access to Justice Fund.



Questions?

LEGAL INFO 
NOVA SCOTIA

LEGAL INFO 
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