



# What is a lawyer? What do they do?

## What is their role?

- A lawyer's job is to help people understand their court and decide what they want to do.
- A lawyer tries to help people understand the law
- A lawyer gives you options and explains things – it's not their job to tell you what to do
- After listening to your lawyer, you tell them what you want to do.

# Nunavut and Legal Aid

- Legal Aid Lawyers in Nunavut work in one area of the law.
- Criminal Lawyers who help people who are charged by the RCMP
- Family Lawyers help people who have kids and problems with their common-laws or Social Services.
- Civil Lawyers help people who have daily problems like with their landlords or employers.

# Nunavut and Legal Aid

- Lawyers can be expensive – people can't always afford to pay for a lawyer or fly one up to help them.
- Legal Aid has lawyers that help. If you can't afford a lawyer, you may be able to get a Legal Aid Lawyer to help.
- There are clinics in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit where the lawyers work.
- Legal Aid Lawyers also fly to communities for court.

# Lawyers in Nunavut

- Lawyers that work in Nunavut work here because they have a license and are allowed to work here.
- Lawyers are part of something called the Law Society of Nunavut.
- Lawyers have to act in a certain way and the Law Society is responsible for making sure that a lawyer is following the rules.

# Lawyers in Nunavut

- If you have a problem with your lawyer, you should talk to them about it.
- Talking and trying to work out your problems is important, especially if your lawyer is confused about what you want and may have misunderstood you.
- If you have a problem with your lawyer that talking doesn't help, you can talk to the Law Society.

# Nunavut and Legal Aid

If you make over these amounts, you may not qualify for Legal Aid

Household Size	Annual Gross Income Level
1 person	\$ 50 400.00
2 persons	\$62 400.00
3 persons	\$88 800.00
4 persons	\$96 000.00
5 persons	\$103 200.00
6 persons	\$110 400.00
7 persons	\$117 600.00
8 persons	\$124 800.00
9 persons	\$132 000.00
10+ persons	\$139 200.00

# Who gets legal aid?

## **Criminal:**

- You must be under arrest or charged
- Everyone gets a lawyer for their first time in court on a charge.
- If you want to fight your charges, you have to apply for legal aid to see if you get a lawyer.

## **Family:**

You must:

- Be a resident of Nunavut
- Have a case based upon the opinion of a family lawyer
- Get social assistance or cannot afford a lawyer based on the chart



# Court Workers

- A Court Worker will help explain how to get a lawyer, tell you your trial dates/ locations about your court matters.
- Court Workers are in the community you live in – even when the lawyers are not there.
- They can help you get in touch with a lawyer and help answer questions you have about court.

# When you should contact a Court Worker?

- If you have been arrested, summoned to court, or if your children have been taken away by a social worker call a Court Worker **IMMEDIATELY**
- By calling a Court Worker right away, they will help make sure that you understand what's going on and they will help you get in touch with a lawyer.