

SALI

**SASKATCHEWAN ACCESS TO
LEGAL INFORMATION PROJECT**

Resource on Detecting Legal Problems & Legal Information Sources in Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan Public Libraries

Detecting Legal Problems & Legal Information Sources in Saskatchewan

Helping people detect their legal problems is important. When people recognize their legal problem, they can then look for legal information and get legal help. Knowing what the legal problems are will also help you point them to the right information and give them useful referrals to resources in their community.

Detecting issues that can evolve into legal problems is also helpful. Being aware of potential legal problems can help people avoid a legal problem or help them deal with one before it gets more serious. The following questions may help give you a sense of whether someone has a legal problem or a problem that may evolve into a legal problem.

Do they describe a life event?

When people come to you for help, do they mention a life event? A life event is something big that happens in a person's life that changes their situation. For example, getting married, separating from a spouse or partner, having children, losing a job, starting to get income support from the government, or being evicted from a home, are life events. Life events sometimes trigger legal problems.

Did they bring legal documents or legal forms?

When people come to you for help, do they bring or tell you about legal documents or letters they received, or forms they filled in or need to fill in? This kind of paperwork may tell you that their problem has a legal aspect.

Do their statements flag a legal problem?

When people come to you for help, do they say things that make you think this could be a legal problem? The following statements, for example, flag a legal problem: "My ex-partner has stopped paying child support as he's starting a new family." "My employer is always commenting on my appearance." "Are there any shelters close by?" "I have bedbugs and my landlord said he has no money to fix the problem."

If you aren't sure whether a problem is a legal one, check out one of the Public Legal Education Association's websites plea.org, familylaw.plea.org or newli.plea.org. The Public Legal Education Association is a non-profit organization that develops plain-language legal resources to help the public understand the law in their lives. On plea.org you can browse topics such as debts, criminal law or housing, or search for a key word and be directed to related resources. If the problem relates to a family issue, like divorce, support or custody, familylaw.plea.org has comprehensive information about all aspects of family law. If the person you are helping is new to Canada newli.plea.org has lots of information that is relevant for people who are new to Canada, including information on a wide-range of topics from how to get a drivers' licence to how to deal with discrimination in the workplace.

Saskatchewan.ca, the provincial government's website, is also a good place to start. You can look at the different sections, such as health or housing or use the search to find a particular term. You can search for forms and related information by entering the name of the form. If you are searching the name of a form you may want to put Saskatchewan in your search terms since forms with the same name could be used in different provinces.

Here are some examples of life events, sorted by area of law. The first column gives examples of what you might hear someone say. The second column lists related legal forms or documents that a person may bring with them or mention, or that you may want to point them to. The third column gives a link to legal information related to that topic.

<h2>Consumer Law</h2>		
Life events	Forms / Documents	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owing money to someone Declaring bankruptcy Paying for goods or services and not being satisfied 		
“A collection agency has been hassling me about my debt payments.”	Demand Letter from collection agency or lawyer demanding payment by a certain date	Collection Agents (plea.org) Debt Collection (FCAA)
“I can’t afford my car payments.”	Loan Agreement with Financial Institution or Car Dealership	Debts (plea.org)
“The repair shop charged me more than they said they would.”	Quote, Invoice, Ads showing repair rates	Vehicle Repairs (plea.org) Small Claims Court (plea.org) Purchasing & Repairing a Vehicle (FCAA)
“I felt pressured to buy something for a door-to-door salesperson.”		Door-to-Door Sales (plea.org) Purchasing from a door-to-door salesperson (FCAA)
“I purchased something and it broke right away.”		Warranties (plea.org) Warranties (FCAA)
“I want to cancel my payday loan.”	Loan Agreement with Loan Company	Payday Loans (plea.org) Payday Loan Borrowers (FCAA)
“The bank says I need a credit check before they can process my loan.”	Loan Application with borrower’s consent to a credit report request from the lender	Credit Reports (plea.org) Credit Reporting Agencies (FCAA)

<h2>Employment Law</h2>		
Life events	Forms / Documents	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting a first job Getting a new job Being fired Being laid off 		

Employment Law continued

<p>“I have been working extra hours without pay.”</p>		<p>Overtime (plea.org) Work Days (newli.plea.org) Overtime (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“I was laid off without notice or extra pay.”</p>	<p>Record of Employment</p>	<p>Leaving or Losing Your Job (plea.org) Leaving or Losing Your Job (newli.plea.org) Layoffs & Termination (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“I have chronic back pain from heavy lifting I need to do at work. I can’t do my job anymore and my boss has fired me.”</p>		<p>Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (plea.org) Employment Discrimination & Duty to Accommodate (SHRC)</p>
<p>“I feel uncomfortable with the way my employer talks to me. He is always commenting on my appearance.”</p>		<p>Right to a Harassment-free Workplace (plea.org) Bullying & Harassment in the Workplace (saskatchewan.ca) Sexual Harassment (SHRC)</p>
<p>I wasn’t hired because of my disability/race/age/gender/other human rights ground.”</p>		<p>Protection Against Discrimination (plea.org) A Guide to Application Forms & Interviews (SHRC)</p>
<p>“I got hurt at work.”</p>		<p>Workplace Incidents (plea.org) Request help with your worker’s compensation claim or appeal (saskatchewan.ca) If you’re injured (WCB)</p>

Family Law

Life events	Forms / Documents	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Living with a partner• Getting married• Separating from a spouse or partner• Having and raising children• Experiencing domestic violence		<p>*familylaw.plea.org has comprehensive information about family law and a form wizard the public can use to help them complete the forms they need to start or respond to a family law case. It also now has an Agreement Maker. The Family Law Information Centre also has help for people dealing with family law issues without a lawyer and self-help kits for starting and responding to family law cases. The Family Matters program run by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice can help families going through separation or divorce by providing access to information and resources to deal with a changing family situation, as well as assistance to resolve urgent and outstanding issues. The Department of Justice Canada also has a family law section on their website. There are also in-person help sessions in various locations around the province. These are listed on saskatchewan.ca.</p>

Family Law continued

<p>“I need a separation agreement.”</p>		<p>Create an Account / Agreement Maker ; Agreements; Parenting Plans; (familylaw.plea.org) Preparing a Separation Agreement (saskatchewan.ca) Parenting Plan Tool (justice.gc.ca)</p>
<p>“I want to get a divorce.”</p>		<p>Separation & Divorce; Court Form Wizard (familylaw.plea.org) Represent yourself in Family Court; Sole Petitioner Uncontested Divorce Kit; Co-Petitioner Uncontested Divorce Kit (saskatchewan.ca) Divorce & Separation (justice.canada.ca)</p>
<p>“I need a custody/child support/spousal support order.”</p>		<p>Custody & Access; Child & Spousal Support; Court Form Wizard (familylaw.plea.org) Starting a Family Law Proceeding Kit (saskatchewan.ca) Child Support Table Look-up; About Spousal Support; Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines (justice.gc.ca)</p>
<p>“My ex-partner does not allow me time with the children as ordered by the court.”</p>	<p>Court Order</p>	<p>Enforcing Custody & Access; Apply for a Court Order (family.plea.org) Represent yourself in Family Court (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“My ex-partner is not paying the child support we agreed on.”</p>	<p>Separation Agreement</p>	<p>Enforcing a Support Order or Agreement (familylaw.plea.org) What if the Payor Does Not Pay (saskatchewan.ca)</p>

Family Law Continued

<p>“I was served with papers that say that a family law case has been started against me.”</p>	<p>Petition; Notice of Application; Letter from other party’s lawyer</p>	<p>Respond to Court Documents (familylaw.plea.org) Replying to a Court Application (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“I have to leave my home because my partner is abusive.”</p>		<p>Leaving an Abusive Relationship (familylaw.plea.org) Help from Domestic Violence Service Programs (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>My partner & I lived together in a house I own but now we are separating. Does my partner have any rights to my house?”</p>		<p>Family Home (familylaw.plea.org)</p>

Housing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move in or out of an apartment • Moving in with a roommate • Being evicted • Buying or selling a home 		<p>The Office of Residential Tenancies has approved forms, sample leases and other documents as well as information about renting.</p>
<p>“I’m behind on my rent and my landlord says I need to move out.”</p>	<p>ORT Form 7 – Immediate Notice to Vacate</p>	<p>Notice to Move Out (plea.org) Eviction for non-payment of rent or utilities (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“My landlord asked me to move out so the landlord’s family can move in.”</p>	<p>ORT Form 8b – Notice to Vacate so Owner can Occupy</p>	<p>Two Months' Notice (plea.org) Eviction for Landlord to Occupy Unit (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“My landlord keeps come into my place to check on things – can a landlord do that?”</p>		<p>Landlord’s Right of Access (plea.org) Landlord’s Right to Enter a Rental Property (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“My landlord is keeping my damage deposit but I left the unit in the same condition as when I moved in.”</p>		<p>Return of Security Deposit (plea.org) Cleaning at the End of a Tenancy (saskatchewan.ca)</p>

Housing continued

<p>“My landlord has increased my rent and I can’t afford the new amount.”</p>		<p>Paying Rent (plea.org) Rent Increases (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“There are bedbugs in my place and my landlord is saying that it’s my problem and I need to take care of it.”</p>		<p>Pests (saskatchewan.ca)</p>

Power of Attorney & Guardianship

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealing with a serious illness • Looking after aging parents • Being physically incapacitated • Wanting someone else to deal with some of their affairs 		
<p>“The nursing home my mom is moving into says she needs a power of attorney.”</p>		<p>Power of Attorney (plea.org) Powers of Attorney for Adults (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“I am selling my house but I have already moved away and need someone to deal with the sale.”</p>		<p>Power of Attorney (plea.org) Powers of Attorney for Adults (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“My brother has a power of attorney for my parents and I think he is using their money for his own purposes.”</p>		<p>Power of Attorney; Abuse of Older Adults (plea.org) Investigating Financial Abuse (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“My dad had a stroke and now he needs help to deal with his financial affairs.”</p>		<p>Adult Guardianship (plea.org) Guardianship and Co-Decision making for Dependent Adults (saskatchewan.ca)</p>

Wills & Deaths

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting married or divorced • Having children or grandchildren • Being named as an Executor in someone’s Will • Being a beneficiary under a Will • Relative passing away without a Will 		
<p>“My sister is the Executor under my dad’s Will and she will not let me see the Will.”</p>		<p>Information for Beneficiaries; Responsibilities of an Executor or Administrator (plea.org) Executor or Administrator Duties (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“My mom died without a Will what happens now?”</p>		<p>Beneficiaries of the Estate: Without a Will (plea.org) When the Deceased does not have Last Will and Testament (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“My aunt told me she was leaving me her house in her Will and now it has been 2 years and I have heard nothing.”</p>		<p>Checking on Distribution of Estate (plea.org) Accounting & Releases (saskatchewan.ca)</p>
<p>“How do I get a death certificate?”</p>		<p>Death in the Family: Paperwork (plea.org) Order a Death Certificate (eHealth Saskatchewan)</p>
<p>“My family does not agree on funeral arrangements for my grandmother – who gets to decide?”</p>		<p>Funerals, Cremation & Burial (plea.org)</p>

Crimes, Tickets & Fines

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting a traffic ticket • Being stopped by the police • Being charged with a crime • Being a victim of a crime 		
“The police gave me a paper called an appearance notice – what does this mean?”	Appearance Notice	Release by Police (plea.org) Criminal Charges (newli.plea.org)
“The police stopped my car and searched it – can they do that?”		Vehicle Searches (plea.org) Police Searches (newli.plea.org)
“How do I fight a traffic ticket?”	Offence Notice	Traffic Tickets (plea.org) Information on Provincial Violation Tickets (saskatchewan.ca)
I was a victim of a crime – what rights do I have?		Victims’ Rights (plea.org) Rights for Victims of Crime (saskatchewan.ca)

Health

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facing a serious illness • Dealing with aging parents • Receiving medical advice 		
“What would happen if I need medical treatment but I have had a stroke or something and cannot make my own decisions?”		Health Care Directives; If You Do Not Have A Directive; Medical Treatment Without Consent (plea.org)
“If I go to the United States for part of the year am I still covered by Saskatchewan Health?”		Health Coverage Outside of Saskatchewan and Canada (saskatchewan.ca)
“How can I access my medical records?”		Access to Your Health Records (plea.org) Your Personal Health Information and Privacy (saskatchewan.ca)
“Who can I complain to if I think my doctor is not giving me good medical care?”		Health Care Complaints (plea.org) Resolving Health Care Concerns and Complaints (saskatchewan.ca)

Taxes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being audited by the CRA • Filing a tax return • Owning money to the CRA 		
<p>“I didn’t make much money last year – do I have to file a tax return?”</p>	T4	<p>When Tax Returns are Required (plea.org) Do you have to file a return? (canada.ca)</p>
<p>“My Notice of Assessment says I owe more taxes but I do not think I should have to pay more.”</p>	Notice of Assessment	<p>Assessments (plea.org) Income Tax Objections (canada.ca)</p>
<p>“I have been notified by the CRA that they are going to perform an audit – what does this mean?”</p>		<p>Audits plea.org The Tax Audit (canada.ca)</p>
<p>“I can’t pay the full amount of the tax I owe – what will the CRA do?”</p>		<p>Unpaid Taxes (plea.org) Interest and Penalties (canada.ca)</p>

Finding a Lawyer

If someone needs a lawyer they can use the [find a lawyer](#) function on the Law Society of Saskatchewan website. If they cannot afford a lawyer, they are very low income (social assistance level) and their legal matter is a family or criminal matter, they may qualify for [Legal Aid](#). Low income people who do not qualify for Legal Aid can try to get a pro bono (no cost) lawyer by contacting [Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan](#).

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