

## **JAMH – Resources for Families and Friends**

### **Justice and Mental Health Program (JAMH)**

The Schizophrenia Society of Ontario provides a designated service to families and caregivers of individuals living with mental illness who come in contact with the criminal justice system. Our counselors can provide you with information, system navigation assistance, and counseling support.

You can access our services by calling us Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm at 1-800-449-6367 or email at [asktheexpert@schizophrenia.on.ca](mailto:asktheexpert@schizophrenia.on.ca).

Other useful resources which you can access to assist you with your situation are listed below for your convenience.

### **Justice Ontario**

A branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General, Justice Ontario provides information about Ontario's legal system in over 170 different languages, including:

- Finding a lawyer
- Tickets and fines
- Lawsuits and disputes
- Family and criminal law
- Human rights, and
- Wills and Estates

To access Justice Ontario, visit: [www.attorneygeneral.ius.gov.on.ca/english/justice-ont](http://www.attorneygeneral.ius.gov.on.ca/english/justice-ont) or call 1-866-252-0104.

### **Your Legal Rights**

A project of CLEO (Community Legal Education Ontario), *Your Legal Rights* is a website of legal information for people in Ontario. This site has free, practical, and easy-to-find legal information produced by hundreds of organizations across Ontario.

The *Your Legal Rights* site contains the following features:



- **Resources:** Legal information covering a wide range of legal topics, in a variety of formats, and available in dozens of languages
- **Common Questions:** Questions and answers to everyday legal problems
- **Find Services:** Interactive map of key legal and social services across Ontario
- **Training:** Public legal education training webinars for service providers
- **News & Events:** The latest headlines and community events about the law and access to justice

To access Your Legal Rights, visit: <http://yourlegalrights.on.ca>.

### **Legal Aid Ontario (LAO)**

Legal Aid Ontario promotes access to justice for low-income individuals in Ontario. LAO provides a wide range of services:

- Summary legal advice for family and criminal law matters.
- Duty counsel services - performed by staff and private-sector lawyers - for people who arrive in criminal, family or youth courts without a lawyer.
- Poverty law services - such as helping people to obtain or maintain social assistance benefits - delivered through a network of independent, community-based legal aid clinics, funded by LAO.
- Community and specialty clinics that provide services for legal issues such as: social assistance, tenant rights, government pensions, immigration, employment insurance, workplace safety and insurance, Workers' Compensation, employment rights, criminal injuries compensation, human rights.
- Certificate program for the most serious and complex cases. Eligible low-income clients can obtain a certificate which is used to retain a private lawyer.

You can call LAO's toll-free number 1-800-668-8258 to get legal services, assistance and information in over 200 languages. This service is available Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.

You can also visit: [www.legalaid.on.ca](http://www.legalaid.on.ca) for more information.



## **Law Society Referral Service (LSRS)**

The Law Society Referral Service (previously called Lawyer Referral Service) connects lawyers and people looking for assistance with a legal matter. When you call the LSRS, you will be provided with the name of a lawyer or licensed paralegal who will provide a free consultation of up to 30 minutes to help you determine your rights and options. This free consultation can either be in person or over the phone, depending on the lawyer's preference and availability. After the consultation, you can decide if you want to hire the legal professional to work for you.

You can access the LSRS by calling 1-800-268-8326. This service is available Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm. You can also access LSRS via the online request form:

<http://lsrs.lsuc.on.ca/lsrs>. For more information and to access Frequently Asked Questions, visit: [www.lsuc.on.ca/faq.aspx?id=2147486372#q2147486381](http://www.lsuc.on.ca/faq.aspx?id=2147486372#q2147486381).

## **Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services (VCARS)**

VCARS is a community response program that provides immediate on-site service to victims of crime and tragic circumstances. It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. VCARS programs work in partnership with local police services. Police officers call on VCARS to send a team of trained volunteers to provide on-site, short-term assistance. VCARS also assists victims by providing referrals to other appropriate community agencies and the Victim Quick Response Program, which offers assistance for funeral expenses, counseling services and emergency expenses in the immediate aftermath of a violent crime.

You can also a Victim Support Line (VSL) at 1-888-579-2888, 7 days a week from 8am – 10pm.

To find online information about services for victims of crime, you can access Victim Services Directory (VSD): <http://services.findhelp.ca/ovss>.

## **Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)**

This program provides information, assistance and support throughout the criminal court process to victims and witnesses of crime. Services are provided on a priority basis to the most vulnerable victims and witnesses of violent crime, such as domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, homicide and hate crime. Services begin once police have laid charges and continue until the court case is over.



VWAP is available in many Ontario communities. Contact your local police station or courthouse to find out if there is a program in your area. You can call the Victims Support Line at 1-888-579-2888 or visit [www.ontario.ca/victimservices](http://www.ontario.ca/victimservices).

## **ConnexOntario**

ConnexOntario operates three helplines that provide health services information for people and families with mental health, addictions, and problem gambling issues. Through ConnexOntario you can find information about a local crisis centre, a court diversion program, or treatment program, just to name a few.

Helpful, supportive Information and Referral Specialists answer all calls, emails or webchat requests 24/7. This service is free, confidential and anonymous.

- Mental Health Helpline: call 1-866-531-2600 or visit [www.mentalhealthhelpline.ca](http://www.mentalhealthhelpline.ca)
- Drug and Alcohol Helpline: call 1-800-565-8603 or visit [www.drugandalcoholhelpline.ca](http://www.drugandalcoholhelpline.ca)
- Problem Gambling Helpline: call 1-888-230-3505 or visit [www.problemgamblinghelpline.ca](http://www.problemgamblinghelpline.ca)