

What Court Staff Can and Cannot Do for You

The staff members at the Registries of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador can provide you with general legal information and can assist you with certain matters. There are ethical limits, though, on the type of assistance they can provide. The table below outlines what staff members can do for you and what they cannot do for you.

We can	give you copies of Court forms and provide you with procedural information.	We cannot	fill out court forms or documents for you or tell you what words to put in them.
We can	provide information on how to contact Legal Aid and other services where legal information is available.	We cannot	give you legal advice. It is strongly suggested that you seek legal advice before commencing a proceeding.
We can	briefly explain and answer general questions about how the Court works, Court rules and the Court's procedures.	We cannot	recommend the name of any lawyer to act on your behalf.
We can	check your forms and other Court papers for completeness such as signatures, compliance with the Rules and that any cited attachments are present and properly signed.	We cannot	tell you which procedure to use if there is a choice.
We can	tell you why we think that your documents do not comply with the Rules and give you an opportunity to make changes. You do not have to make the changes we suggest.	We cannot	tell you what words to use in your Court documents.
We can	give you basic information about mediation, applications or other Court hearings.	We cannot	tell you whether you have included sufficient information to get what you want.

We can	give you procedural information about how your case is being managed and the process involved in each step along the way to having your case heard by the Court.	We cannot	tell you what to say in Court or how to make your legal arguments / submissions to a Judge.
We can	answer general questions about deadlines.	We cannot	tell you what the decision of the Court will be or give you any opinion about what it might be.
We can	provide procedural information on how to get a case set down for hearing.	We cannot	calculate deadlines for you.
We can	give you information about interpreters and Court reporters.	We cannot	interpret orders made by a Judge.
We can	serve as a Commissioner of Oaths to swear/affirm any affidavits prepared by you, to be filed in the Court.	We cannot	change an order that has been made by a Judge.
We can	get a copy of a document in a Court file for you for a fee if there are no restrictions on accessing the file.	We cannot	communicate with a judge for you or allow you to communicate with a judge at any time other than at your Court hearing.
We can	give you information about your file	We cannot	find a precedent of a document for you.