



**FORT GARRY WOMEN'S
RESOURCE CENTRE**

Legal and Advocacy Resources

Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre

1150A Waverley St | Winnipeg MB | R3T 0P4

204-477-1123 | info@fgwrc.ca

LEGAL RESOURCES

Community Legal Education Association: CLEA 204-943-2382

301 – 441 Main Street
www.communitylegal.mb.ca

CLEA offers the following programs:

- ***Law Phone-In Program:*** 204-943-2305 / 1-800-262-8800
Legal information (not advice) provided over the phone.
- ***Lawyer Referral Program:*** 204-943-3602
No legal information, referrals only.

Family Justice Resource Centre 204-945-2313

Located at The Law Courts Building, 408 York Avenue
Service provided by Manitoba Justice.

Staff can direct you to the services you and your family may need to deal with family law issues. Information is free and confidential.

For example:

- How do I get child support?
- How do I get custody or access to my child?
- How do I find a lawyer?
- How do I get a legal separation?
- How do I file for divorce?
- What can I do if I can't afford a lawyer?

Legal Help Centre 204-258-3096 393 Portage Ave.

www.legalhelpcentre.ca

Provides legal information (not advice), referrals, as well as hosting drop-in clinics and workshops.

Legal Aid 204-985-8500 or 1-800-261-2960 www.legalaid.mb.ca

Provides legal advice and representation to eligible low-income individuals and groups.

Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre 204-477-1123

Offers free monthly legal consultations for women. It is only for women who have not dealt with a lawyer regarding their issue (no current or past lawyers). Lawyers will provide legal information – not advice.

VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES

Manitoba Justice Victim Services 204-945-6851 - 1-866-484-2846
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/services/>

Victim Services offers support to:

- Victims of the most serious crimes as outlined in *The Victim's Bill of Rights*
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Child Victims and Witnesses

Compensation for Victims of Crime Program 204-945-0899

Provides compensation to victims who suffer personal injury, hardships, or expenses as a result of certain crimes. The program is also available to specific relatives and dependants of victims of homicide.

Victim Witness Assistance Program 204-945-3594 or 1-866-635-1111

Provides information and support to victims/witnesses of crimes who are to appear in court.

Winnipeg Police Victim Services Unit 204-986-6350

www.winnipeg.ca/police/AboutTheService/victim_services.stm

Offers support case/court information, and referral information to victims of crimes.

MANITOBA FAMILY SERVICES

Manitoba Family Conciliation 204-945-7236

http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childfam/family_conciliation.html

Family Conciliation Services provides a range of (free) conflict resolution services to families going through separation or divorce. You may be referred by the court, by your lawyer, legal aid, a social service agency, or you may decide to come on your own. Available *Manitoba Family Conciliation* programs are listed below, and can also be found online.

For the Sake of the Children: Supportive information program for parents to help them understand, both legally and emotionally, and learn more

about the needs of children upon separation.

Mediation: An alternative to traditional court action for parents who are willing to work together with a mediator to make decisions about ongoing needs of children after separation.

Conciliation Counselling: Short term counselling for individuals, couples, or families in the process of separation/divorce.

Caught in the Middle: This is a group for children ages 8-12 whose parents are in conflict over separation/divorce issues. ***Just for Teens*** is an informational seminar for teens ages 12-17.

Grandparent and Family Access Support: Offers support, information, counselling, and mediation to grandparents/family members seeking access to children.

Brief Consultation Service: Provides a brief consultation to parents and the court to help address wishes or concerns of older children (11-16).

First Choice Service: A brief confidential evaluation service; a combination of assessment, mediation, and settlement conferencing designed to help parents resolve their custody/access issues.

Court Ordered Assessment: When separating parents are unable to agree upon decisions about their children, the court may direct Family Conciliation Services to conduct an assessment of the family situation to determine what is in the children's best interests.

FAMILY LAW

Government of MB: Family Law www.gov.mb.ca/justice/family/law/

Family Law in Manitoba (Booklet)

The booklet provides a wealth of information on family law and the legal system in Manitoba for anyone who wants or needs to know about it. Available to view online or for download at

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/family/law/pdf/familylawbooklet2014.pdf>

Child Support Recalculation Service 204-945-2293

A service for parents who want their child support order recalculated

based on updated financial information.

www.gov.mb.ca/justice/family/law/recalculation.html

Maintenance Enforcement Program 204-945-7133 or 1-866-479-2717

Enforces court orders and some support agreements.

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/family/mep/>

Federal Child Support Guidelines

Step-by-step online reference guide for child support in MB.

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/fl-lf/child-enfant/guide/index.html>

A Guide to Changing a Child Support Order in MB

Online guide detailing Child Support Orders in MB, Procedures and Rules, information related to preparing court documents, and other resources.

www.gov.mb.ca/justice/family/law/guide/index.html

OTHER LEGAL RESOURCES

Mediation Services

204-925-3410 - <http://mediationserviceswpg.ca>

Provides services to people experiencing interpersonal conflict.

Mediation Services offers three core programs:

- *Community Resolution Centre*: For individuals and communities in conflict.
- *Restorative Action Centre*: For victims and offenders in criminal cases.
- *Resolution Skills Centre*: Training in mediation, conflict resolution, & leadership skills.

A Woman's Place (NorWest Co-op Community Health) 204-940-6624

Provides supportive counselling and legal services for women who have exited/are exiting an abusive relationship.

Collaborative Practice Manitoba

www.collaborativepracticemanitoba.ca

A legal alternative to the court system for individuals going through separation or divorce. Each party has a lawyer to assist them in negotiating outside of the court system.

Elizabeth Fry Society 204-589-7335 - www.efsmanitoba.org

Provides advocacy, access to resources, and support to women who are in conflict with the law. Court support accompaniment available.

Rainbow Resource Centre 204-474-0212

www.rainbowresourcecentre.org

Offers referrals to the LGBTT community for free consultations with a lawyer.

Manitoba Human Rights Commission 204-945-3007

www.manitobahumanrights.ca

The commission is authorized to mediate and investigate complaints of discrimination, refer matters to adjudication, educate the public, and promote human rights.

The staff does not act as an advocate for the complainant or the respondent in the complaint process.

ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

What is an Advocate?

An Advocate is a someone who represents and works with a person or group of people who may need support and encouragement to exercise their rights, in order to ensure that their rights are upheld.

An advocate might be a family member or friend, a co-worker, a support worker, a counselor, a coach, a mental health worker, or a service provider. Someone who is on your side, and is working with you to ensure you are being treated respectfully and fairly.

When might I need an Advocate?

People may look for an advocate when they are having difficulty accessing or locating services.

Canadian Mental Health Association

Rights Consultant: 204- 982-6135 cmharights@cmhawpg.mb.ca

The Rights Consultant helps *people with mental illness* with any problems they might be having with the services they are using. Advocacy is provided with a focus on treatment, income support, housing and any issues accessing services.

Children's Advocate 204-988-7440 or 1-800-263-7146

info@childrensadvocate.mb.ca

Children's Advocate can listen to your concerns and provide information about the Child and Family Services and Adoption system in Manitoba.

Community Living Winnipeg 204-953-5875

Individual/Family Advocacy

Advocates can assist adults & families living with *intellectual disabilities*. Services include support around inclusive education, community inclusion, housing, income assistance, transition from school to work, and family support.

Community Unemployed Help Centre 204-942-6556

Provides income security advocacy and help with obtaining EI or EIA benefits. Info, resources, & job postings can be found online at www.cuhc.mb.ca.

Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba 204-589-7335

Provides advocacy, access to resources, and support to *women who are in conflict with the law*. The Court Support Program offers support and clarification for women during court proceedings.

EAGLE Urban Transition Centre 204-954-3050

Provides leadership and resources to *Aboriginal* people who have re-located to, or are residents of, the city of Winnipeg. Direct services include counselling, referrals, advocacy and support.

Fair Practices Office 204-945-1047 www.manitoba.ca/fs/fpo

The Fair Practices Office provides confidential and impartial assistance to Manitobans applying for, or receiving services under, the following Family Services and Jobs and the Economy programs who feel they have not been treated fairly:

- Employment and Income Assistance
- market *Abilities*
- Children's disABILITY Services
- Community Living disABILITY Services
- Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care (subsidy)

The Fair Practices Office investigates complaints, mediates disputes and makes recommendations on individual cases to program staff based on investigation outcomes. It also helps to identify complaint patterns and makes recommendations to Government on how service delivery and fairness can be improved within the participating programs.

Independent Living Resource Centre 204-947-0194

Individual Advocate/IL Consultant

ILRC's Self Advocacy Program is designed to support you in gaining the skills and knowledge necessary in becoming a successful Self Advocate. Provides information and support related to Rights to Essential Service, Home Care, Human Rights, Tenant & Housing Rights, Income Security, Social Services, & CPPD Entitlement.

Indian and Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg 204-586-8441

general@imfc.net

IMFC works to meet the needs of the *Aboriginal community* through recreational services, advocating for individuals and groups in need of support, and running a variety of family and youth programming.

Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety 204-927-6477 www.mips.ca

Provides support for individuals and families to be comfortable with their healthcare team, to ask questions, to be informed, to take part in decision-making, and to advocate for yourself to ensure you and your loved ones receive proper treatment.

MOVA: Manitoba Organization for Victim Assistance

204-831-8950 or 1-877-596-0095 - help@mov.ca

MOVA works with Manitoba Justice to ensure that family survivors of homicide victims, who desire, have information, services and supports available to help ensure their rights are protected. MOVA offers Court Support for individuals families during court proceedings (to arrange for court support, please call 204-831-8950).

Métis Community Liaison Department 204-586-8474

Promotes healthy living and supports Métis pride and self-determination. Services include reunification and repatriation, referral and advocacy, and Elder support.

North End Women's Centre 204-589-7347 info@newcentre.org

NEWC's Social Change Agent can advocate on behalf of women to enhance their lives and opportunities while offering support and information to women and their families. They can accompany women to court appearances or meetings (ex. CFS agencies, Legal Aid, EIA workers, & Probation Services), assist with application forms, and provide letters of support.

Wolseley Family Place - Community Services: 204- 788-8257

WFP provides information, support and advocacy in the areas of Child and Family Services, Employment and Income Assistance, locating and keeping housing, etc.

Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba

Worker Advisor Office: 204-945-5787 - 1-800-282-8069

WCB promotes safe and healthy workplaces, facilitates recovery and return to work, provides compassionate and supportive compensation services for workers and employers, and ensures responsible financial stewardship.

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority:

Aboriginal Health Programs: Patient Advocate Central Intake: 1-877-940-8880

The AHP – Health Services Patient Advocate supports the interests, needs and rights of Aboriginal patients in hospital.

Protection for Persons in Care Office 204-788-6366

protection@gov.mb.ca www.gov.mb.ca/health/protection

If you have concerns that someone who is in a personal care home, health facility or hospital is experiencing abuse (including physical, sexual, mental, emotional or financial mistreatment), you can report the situation to the Protection for Persons in Care Office. The Protection for Persons in Care Office will then investigate the report.

West Central Women's Resource Centre

The Homes Project: 204-774-8975 ext. 206

The HOMES Project provides support and mentorship for women dealing with problems or concerns around housing or income security (welfare or EIA). They can help with writing letters, filling out forms, and prepare for meetings, hearings, or appeals, as well as assist with finding and keeping quality housing.

The Women's Resource Centre 204-726-8632 **(Brandon MB)**

advocate@thewomenscentrebrandon.com

Community Resource Advocate

Provides support to women in the Brandon/Westman area who need assistance navigating resources. Areas of focus include EIA, finding and securing affordable housing, accessing Legal Aid, Food Banks, and other resources. Advocates can attend appointments and meetings with women, as well as writing letters of support.