

Will your lawyer help you find good ways to work out your problem, so that it will not cost you too much?

If not, you can pick a new lawyer.

Does your lawyer try to make you do things, like sign papers, when you do not understand them, or you do not want to?

If so, you can pick a new lawyer.

You can help your lawyer. If you have papers about your problem, show them to her or him.

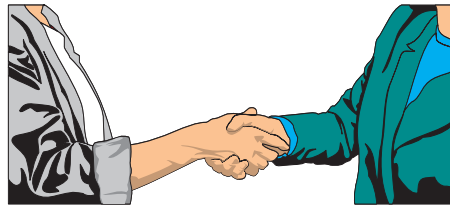
If you meet or phone someone about your problem, write down the day, the time and what was said. If this is hard to do, ask someone you trust to help you. Then you can show this to your lawyer.



Make a list of things you want to tell your lawyer and things you want to know. Take it with you when you visit your lawyer.

You can bring someone you trust with you. He or she can help you remember what you want to say.

Remember, your lawyer works for you.



How to Choose (or Pick) a Lawyer Who is Right for You

For copies of this pamphlet and the pamphlet called **Legal Services**, contact:

Tighe Resource Centre
The Vocational and Rehabilitation
Research Institute
3304 - 33rd Street N.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2L 2A6
Phone: (403) 284-1121
Fax: (403) 289-6427
e-mail: vrri@telus.net



Some day you may need a lawyer.

Maybe you have a big problem with your **landlord** (the person who owns the place you live in), or with a store.

Maybe someone says you did something very bad.

Maybe someone has hurt you.

Maybe you had too much to drink and the police came.

If you have a disability, maybe you need to go to court to get a **guardian**. A guardian helps you to pick (or choose) what you want to do in your life.

Maybe you need help if you are new in Canada.



A lawyer is a person who can help you if you have a big problem with the law.

Here are some things to know when you pick a lawyer. (You can also look at the pamphlet called **Legal Services** to learn more.)

\$ How much will a lawyer cost?

Some lawyers cost more than others. You can ask more than one lawyer what the cost is. It may be \$75 for an hour, or even up to \$250.

Most lawyers want to be paid for every phone call that you make to them. There is no extra cost if they call you.



Legal Aid pays some lawyers to help people who do not have much money. If you do not have money to pay a lawyer, ask if he or she can get paid by Legal Aid. (You can still pick a lawyer you like, even if you cannot pay.) Or phone **Legal Aid at 297-2260**.

How long has this person worked as a lawyer?

A lawyer who has only worked a short time may not be able to do

as much for you. A lawyer who has worked a long time may cost more.

Does the lawyer work often on problems like yours?

If not, you can pick a new lawyer. Lawyers work on lots of different problems. These may be family problems, or help for someone who is new in Canada, or help for someone who wants to buy a house.

Does your lawyer listen carefully to you?

If not, you can pick a new lawyer.

Does your lawyer tell you things in words that you understand?

If not, you can pick a new lawyer.

