

General resources for legal issues

Halton Community Legal Services

A community-based legal clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario, providing legal services for low-income individuals regarding tenants' rights (includes residents in care homes), Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, social assistance and employment insurance law.

Milton / Georgetown / Acton
.....905-877-5256
Oakville / Burlington905-875-2069
www.altonlegal.ca

Advocacy Centre for the Elderly

Legal clinic specializing in older adults issues, providing advice and representation for older adults who cannot be served by local clinics or private lawyers
.....416-598-2656
www.advocacycentreelderly.org

Law Society of Upper Canada & Law Society Referral Service

Agency providing a variety of legal information and resources. You can obtain the number of a lawyer who will provide you with a free 30-minute consultation.
Toll free crisis line1-855-947-5255
.....416-947-5255
www.findlegalhelp.ca

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)
.....416-408-4420
www.cleo.on.ca

Legal Aid

This agency issues certificates to assist low-income individuals with the cost of private lawyers' fees. Older adults who receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement can also receive assistance to create a will.
Toll free1-800-668-8258
www.legalaid.on.ca

Information on wills & POAs

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)
.....416-408-4420
www.cleo.on.ca

Ministry of the Attorney General: Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (OPGT)
.....1-800-366-0335
www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca

Or contact your local MPP

Advocacy Centre for the Elderly

See listing under General Resources (in this brochure)

Halton Community Legal Services

See listing under General Resources (in this brochure)

Information on advance care directives

Ontario Seniors' Secretariat
Toll free1-888-910-1999
www.ontarioseniors.ca

Search: A Guide to Advance Care Planning

Dying with Dignity Canada

Receive a free Advance Care Planning Kit from Dying with Dignity
Toll free1-800-495-6156
www.dyingwithdignity.ca

Ministry of the Attorney General: Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (OPGT)
.....1-800-366-0335
www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca
or contact your local MPP

Your Legal Rights is an online collection of legal information and webinars. Visit
www.yourlegalrights.on.ca

For more information, visit **www.halton.ca/oaac** or dial 311.



halton.ca 311

SCS-15119

Wills/Powers of Attorney (POA)



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Fast Facts

Older Adult Advisory Committee (OAAC)



Know your legal options

Understanding legal options and taking action is the first step to ensuring your final wishes will be carried out as you intended.

It is recommended that anyone over the age of 18 have a will and power of attorney for personal care and financial matters.

This brochure provides facts on wills, powers of attorney (POA) for personal care and property, as well as advance care directives and living wills.

You can:

- write these documents yourself;
- obtain a kit to assist you; and
- have a lawyer write or review the documents.

Lawyers often offer these services and charge a fee for service.

Note: This document is provided for information only and is not a substitute for legal advice.

Legal documents

Legal documents can help you make your wishes known to others.

It is important to keep these documents updated when:

- there's a major change in your life;
- you want to change the individual(s) you selected to act on your behalf; or
- the individual(s) you selected is no longer willing or able to act on your behalf.

Make sure the people you choose to act on your behalf have access to the documents. You should give them a copy and tell them where other copies are located.

You must:

- be mentally capable when you create legal documents; and
- have a witness present when signing the document.

For more information about mental capacity, contact:

**Ministry of the Attorney General:
Office of the Public Guardian and
Trustee (OPGT)**
Toll free1-800-366-0335
www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca

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Legal document types

Wills

A signed document that:

- provides directions about your property after your death; and
- assigns responsibility to an individual, or individuals, to carry out your wishes.

Continuing Power of Attorney (POA) for Property

A signed document that:

- names the individual(s), to act on your behalf with regards to your financial affairs, home and anything else you own; and
- specifies when you want the individual(s) to act on your behalf, such as when you are away on a trip, become mentally incapable or are otherwise unable to act on your own behalf.

Continuing Power of Attorney (POA) for Personal Care

A signed document that:

- identifies the individual(s) to act on your behalf regarding personal care decisions such as your health care, medical treatment, diet, housing, clothing, hygiene and safety.

The law requires doctors and other health care professionals to have consent from you or your substitute decision-maker before providing treatment.

The Health Care Consent Act (HCCA) lists the people who can make personal care decisions for you if you have not appointed a POA for Personal Care.

Advance Care Directive

A signed document about care and treatment that provides specific instructions to follow when serious medical problems impact your ability to make or communicate decisions.

This can become part of your **Continuing Power of Attorney for Personal Care**.