

INFORMATION SHEET – OUTSTANDING WARRANTS

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

- Individuals who have an outstanding arrest warrant for an indictable offence in Canada, or an arrest warrant under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (Canada) are not eligible for income assistance, hardship assistance, disability assistance, or most supplements.
 - Exceptions will be made for those under the age of 18, people who are pregnant or who are in the end stage of a terminal illness.
 - If an adult in a family unit has a warrant, the remaining family members may still be eligible for assistance.
- Individuals are required to disclose whether they have an outstanding warrant at application, on their monthly reporting requirements, and during eligibility audits.
- Individuals are required to provide consent for the ministry to confirm with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General if they have an outstanding warrant.
- Failing to disclose the existence of an outstanding warrant may result in an overpayment.
- Individuals wishing to resolve an outstanding warrant can request a repayable supplement to cover the least expensive appropriate one-way transportation for themselves (and their spouse and/or dependent children, if applicable) to return to the jurisdiction that issued the warrant.
 - In some circumstances, a warrant may be resolved at a local police station without returning to the jurisdiction which issued it.
- While dealing with an outstanding warrant, individuals and families may be eligible for repayable assistance. This assistance is repayable and, in most cases, will only be provided for three months.

If you have any questions, please call the ministry toll-free at 1-866-866-0800.

Resolving an outstanding warrant: Providing one of the following documents may demonstrate that a warrant is resolved: promise to appear, recognizance, undertaking, appearance notice, or request for waiver.

Individuals who wish to resolve an outstanding warrant are advised to seek legal advice. See next page for information on free legal services in BC.

Free legal services in British Columbia:

- 1) The Legal Services Society administers legal aid in BC and may be contacted at:

Legal Services Society

Telephone: 604 408-2172 (Greater Vancouver)

Toll Free: 1 866 577-2525 (no charge, elsewhere in BC)

Website: <https://lss.bc.ca/>

- 2) Access Pro Bono promote, co-ordinate and facilitate the delivery of free legal services. Information on how to find free legal advice and assistance is available at the Access Pro Bono website. They can be contacted at:

Access Pro Bono

Telephone: 604 878-7400 (Greater Vancouver)

Toll Free: 1-877-762-6664 (no charge, elsewhere in BC)

Website: <https://accessprobono.ca/>

- 3) The University of British Columbia Law Students' Legal Advice Program (LSLAP) offers free legal advice and representation in the Lower Mainland to those who are unable to afford legal assistance. Information on services is available on their website.

UBC Law Students' Legal Advice Program

University of British Columbia (Locations throughout Lower Mainland)

Telephone: 604 822-5791

Website: <https://www.lslap.bc.ca/>

- 4) The Lawyer Referral Service of Access Pro Bono will provide the name of a lawyer for a free half-hour legal consultation. Information about the Lawyer Referral Service is available at:

Lawyer Referral Service

Telephone: 1-800-663-1919

Website: <http://www.accessprobono.ca/lawyer-referral-service>

- 5) Clicklaw is a website aimed at enhancing access to justice in this province. Clicklaw identifies legal information and education resources available to British Columbians. The website provides practical information about citizens' legal rights and responsibilities and options to solve legal problems, along with access to resources to help learn about the laws that affect British Columbians and how the legal system works.

Website: www.clicklaw.bc.ca