



Legal aid,
a network at your service
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GEORGE OWNS A HOUSE AND HAS MONEY IN HIS BANK ACCOUNT. IS HE FINANCIALLY ELIGIBLE FOR LEGAL AID?

George is married to Theresa and they have four minor children. George works as a part-time employee for a transportation company. Theresa is a teacher and also works part-time. They have a combined annual gross income of \$39,200. George and Theresa own their family residence, which has a value of \$100,000 and is fully paid. They have \$6,000 in their joint bank account. George has been accused of committing a crime and wants to be represented by a lawyer. He wonders whether he is financially eligible for legal aid.

It is important to remember that there are two ways to qualify for legal aid: at no cost or in return for the payment of a maximum contribution of \$800.

To obtain **free** legal aid, George's family must satisfy the following **three** conditions:

- 1- Scale of annual (gross) income:
Gross income must not exceed the following amount for
Spouses with two children or more: \$39,097
- 2- Scale of property owned:
The value of property owned must not exceed
\$90,000, if the residence is owned
\$47,500, if the residence is not owned
- 3- Scale of liquidities:
The value of liquidities must not exceed
\$5,000 for a family
\$2,500 for a single person

Even though the financial situation of George and his family exceeds the three scales mentioned above (income, property and liquidities), George may nevertheless be eligible for legal aid in return for the payment of a contribution.

The following is the calculation method that applies. First, we must determine which class of applicant George falls into. The *Regulation respecting legal aid* states that there are six classes of applicants. George falls into the class of a family composed of spouses with two children or more.

The following amounts must then be added to the amounts provided for in the scales mentioned above:

- 100 % of the excess income
- 10 % of the excess property
- 100 % of the excess liquidities

The total amount represents the **deemed income** used to determine whether George is eligible for legal aid in return for the payment of a maximum contribution.

Legal Brief*

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Text prepared by
the Commission des services
juridiques

Contact Us

Commission des
services juridiques
Communications Department
2 Complexe Desjardins
East Tower
Suite 1404
P.O. Box 123
Succursale Desjardins
Montreal, Québec
H5B 1B3

Telephone: (514) 873-3562
Fax: (514) 864-2351

www.csj.qc.ca

* The information provided in
this document is not a legal
interpretation.

The masculine gender has been used
to designate persons solely in order to
simplify the text.



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GEORGE OWNS A HOUSE AND HAS MONEY IN HIS BANK ACCOUNT. IS HE FINANCIALLY ELIGIBLE FOR LEGAL AID? (CONTINUED)

Here are the detailed calculations for George:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Scale (free legal aid) Spouses with two children or more | \$39,097 |
| 100% of the excess income (\$39,200 - \$39,097) | \$103 |
| 10% of the excess property (\$100,000 - \$90,000) | \$1,000 |
| 100% of the excess liquidities (\$6,000 - \$5,000) | \$1,000 |
| Deemed income | \$41,200 |

The legal aid scale below (which is also found on the Web site of the Commission des services juridiques) indicates that George is eligible for legal aid in return for a maximum contribution of **\$200**.*

| Family composed of spouses with two children or more | Income | Contribution level |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| | from \$39,098 to \$41,036 | \$100 |
| | from \$41,037 to \$42,975 | \$200 |
| | from \$42,976 to \$44,913 | \$300 |
| | from \$44,914 to \$46,852 | \$400 |
| | from \$46,853 to \$48,791 | \$500 |
| | from \$48,792 to \$50,730 | \$600 |
| | from \$50,731 to \$52,668 | \$700 |
| | from \$52,669 to \$54,608 | \$800 |

Don't hesitate to have your eligibility for legal aid evaluated by making an appointment at a legal aid office near you.

To find the contact information for your legal aid office, please click on the following link www.csj.qc.ca.

* The director general can, under certain conditions, agree that the contribution will be paid in several instalments. The total period for such instalments cannot exceed 6 months.

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