

Who works at HALCO?

HALCO staff include:

- executive director/lawyer
- staff lawyers
- community legal worker
- director of administration
- administrative assistant.

How is HALCO funded?

HALCO is a registered charity. We welcome donations and bequests. Donations are used to support our services for people living with HIV in Ontario. Tax receipts are available for donations over \$20.

We are funded by Legal Aid Ontario, the AIDS Bureau of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and other sources including corporate, foundation, and individual donors.

Although we receive government funding, HALCO is an independent non-governmental organization.

www.halco.org

Who are HALCO's members and board of directors?

As a registered charity and not-for-profit organization, HALCO has members and a volunteer board of directors.

Membership in HALCO shows your support for the work that we do. There is no fee for HALCO membership and membership is renewed every three years.

As a member of HALCO, you will be invited to join us at our annual general meeting, where you can participate in the business that helps to guide the clinic, including the election of our volunteer board of directors. The majority of our board of directors are people living with HIV.

To become a member, you must be a resident of Ontario who is 18 years of age or older, and you must agree with our **Statement of Principles**.

Membership is open to people who are living with HIV and people who are not living with HIV.

HALCO membership applications are available upon request and on our website at www.halco.org/get-involved.

How do I contact HALCO?

HALCO is open:

Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Our office is closed on public holidays.

Intake hours for new inquiries:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We do not take new inquiries on Tuesday or Thursday.
(Hours are subject to change.)

Call us:

Telephone: 416-340-7790
Toll-free: 1-888-705-8889

Drop in at the HALCO office during intake hours:

55 University Avenue, Suite 1400
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5J 2H7

(just south of King Street West and the accessible St. Andrew subway station)

Wheelchair access:

Our office is wheelchair accessible.
Please contact us for information.

Email:

talklaw@halco.org

The internet may not be confidential and emails may be lost, blocked or slow to arrive. We suggest you contact us by phone or drop in.

Scent-free environment:

Please avoid wearing scents or fragrances when coming to our office.

Free Legal Services
for People with
HIV/AIDS in Ontario

HALCO
HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario

www.halco.org

telephone:
416-340-7790

toll-free telephone:
1-888-705-8889

What is HALCO?

HALCO, the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario, is a community legal clinic and a registered charity. HALCO opened in 1995.

HALCO provides free legal services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Ontario. You can find more information about our services on the next page (page 2).

We believe:

- People living with HIV face unique legal problems that can affect their well-being.
- People with HIV are the best-equipped to make choices regarding HIV issues and problems.
- The privacy and autonomy of people with HIV must be respected and protected.
- The communities affected by HIV are diverse and have many different priorities.
- We must work together so that the rights and dignity of all people living with HIV are respected.

Dignity. Equity. Justice.

What does HALCO do?

Summary Legal Services and Referrals

We provide free summary legal services for people living with HIV in Ontario. Anyone living with HIV in Ontario can call us about any legal issue (it does not have to be HIV-related). If we cannot assist you, we may be able to give you information and refer you to other services. There are no financial eligibility guidelines for these services.

Legal Representation

HALCO provides free legal representation in our areas of legal practice. We have case and financial eligibility guidelines. Some clients may be asked to help pay costs for reports, etc.

Public Legal Education

HALCO staff provide public legal education workshops on many topics. In addition to our website, we also produce publications and resources. Please contact us if you are interested in our public legal education workshops or publications.

Law Reform and Community Development

HALCO works on law reform and community development initiatives to improve the lives of people living with HIV. We also participate in many networks and working groups.

What are HALCO's areas of legal practice?

Our areas of practice include:

- Government Income Maintenance programs, including:
 - Ontario Disability Support Program
 - Ontario Works
 - Canada Pension Plan
 - Employment Insurance
- Tenant/Housing matters
- Human Rights (Federal and Provincial)
- Immigration and Refugee Law
- Employment Standards matters
- Privacy Law
- Health Law
- Substitute Decision-Making and Powers of Attorney
- Regulated Health Professions complaints
- HIV-related prison matters
- Some private insurance matters
- Other administrative law matters

If we cannot assist you, we may be able to refer you to other services.

Confidentiality

Your privacy is very important to us. **HALCO** follows the Law Society of Ontario rules regarding client confidentiality.

How do I get legal help from HALCO?

To contact us for free legal help, you can call or drop in during our **Intake Hours** (see page 7). We do not have after-hours/emergency service.

You do not need an appointment for intake, but you may have to wait to speak with the caseworker on intake.

Some matters may be complex and take a long time, but others may be very brief. Depending on your question, the caseworker may need to do some research, consult another **HALCO** caseworker, and/or refer you to another service.

Many legal matters have time limits called "limitation periods."

Please contact us as soon as you have a question or problem, so that we can have enough time to try to help you.

Languages

We provide services in English. Some of our staff speak other languages, including French. We can arrange for interpreters for French and other languages.