



Assist

Alberta Lawyers' Assistance Society

University of Calgary Law School FAQs

"I need help right away"	24/7 Crisis Counselling is available—call 1-877-498-6898 and follow the prompts to be connected with a counsellor/psychologist
"I don't feel like myself" or "I feel depressed/anxious/stressed..." or "I am having relationship or family problems" or "I just need someone to talk to."	Call 1-877-498-6898 to book an appointment with one of our psychologists. The office is open from 8 am to 4 pm Mon-Fri, but appointments can be scheduled outside of this window
"How many sessions can I have?"	You are entitled to 4 sessions per person per year per issue , since we can be facing more than one issue at a time.
"What happened to the Psychologist in Residence?"	Terry Lindberg is still our Psychologist in Residence, but he is not able to hold onsite office hours due to pandemic restrictions. You can see Terry for online or telephone counselling.
"Is in-person counselling available?"	Some counsellors are providing in-person counselling, but both the counsellor and the client must wear facemasks. Call 1-877-498-6898 to find out what options are available.
"I am not living in Alberta. Can I still access counselling?"	Yes, we have a network of counsellors in all provinces and territories who can support you where you reside. Call 1-877-498-6898 to book this.
"Can students access Assist's peer support program?"	Yes. Assist operates a matched peer support program where we

	<p>connect lawyers and students with volunteer lawyers, trained in peer support, who have experience in, or insight into, an issue that concerns a caller and can provide personal support. Call 1-877-737-5508.</p>
<p>“I am not sure if I need counselling or just to talk to someone.”</p>	<p>There is no downside to talking to a counsellor, so why not start there? You can access counselling and peer support simultaneously. We want to make sure that all law students can access counselling services first and foremost.</p>
<p>“I feel lonely or isolated” or “I would like to connect with other law students or lawyers.”</p>	<p>Assist provides a suite of Community programs designed to combat loneliness and isolation and foster connection within our profession. We offer:</p> <p>Red Mug Coffee Circles for articling students and junior lawyers to connect with senior peer support lawyer and retired judge volunteers for mentorship, fellowship and shared humanity. Mondays at noon.</p> <p>Gold Mug Coffee Circles for connecting U of C law students to peer support volunteer lawyers and retired judges to learn more about the practice of law and to bridge the transition from student to practitioner. Every second Thursday at noon.</p> <p>Mindfulness Break: Join us for a fifteen-minute breathing, relaxation and mindfulness session led by a lawyer who is a certified yoga instructor. Tuesdays at noon.</p> <p>Yoga: Join us for an online one-hour yoga class led by a lawyer</p>

	<p>who is a certified yoga instructor. Wednesdays at noon. Visit www.lawyersassist.ca/Community to learn more or call 1-877-737-5508 for more information.</p>
<p>How can I learn more about law student stress?</p>	<p>Check out www.lawyersassist.ca/knowledge-hub/lawyer-mental-health-challenges/resources-for-law-students/</p>
<p>How can I learn more about lawyer mental health?</p>	<p>Visit the Knowledge Hub on Assist’s website: www.lawyersassist.ca/knowledge-hub and scroll through the topics by role and issue</p>
<p>How can I help someone in distress?</p>	<p>If someone is in crisis, please call 1-877-498-6898 and follow the prompts. If the person is in danger of harming themselves, please call 911. If you want to learn how to have a conversation with someone who is struggling, please see https://lawyersassist.ca/knowledge-hub/online-courses/how-to-help-someone/, or set up an appointment with one of our counsellors to discuss how you can help.</p>
<p>“I think I may have a substance use problem”</p>	<p>Please call 1-877-498-6898 to arrange to see a counsellor who can help assess this issue, or see your family doctor. If you would like to connect with other law students and lawyers in the 12-step community, please call Assist’s Executive Director at 587-779-7205.</p>

<p>“Who from my family can access counselling?”</p>	<p>You, your spouse and any dependent children (under age 25 and in full-time attendance at a post-secondary institution.)</p>
<p>“Is Assist confidential?”</p>	<p>Yes, both our psychologists who provide counselling and our lawyers who provide peer support are subject to Codes of Conduct with confidentiality assurances, subject to limited exceptions regarding people in imminent danger of bodily harm.</p> <p>Assist communicates aggregated data about program usage to stakeholders, including the Law Society of Alberta and the University of Calgary Faculty of Law but no identifying information is provided.</p>

To learn more about Assist, visit www.lawyersassist.ca or call **1-877-737-5508**.