

Legal Advice and Legal Information

The [ACLRC](http://www.aclrc.com/) gives legal information and education, not legal advice or opinions.

According to the [Law Insider](https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/legal-information), legal information means general, neutral, factual information on the law and its processes. On the other hand, the [Legal Dictionary](https://thelawdictionary.org/advice/) defines “legal advice” as the opinion or counsel given by lawyers to clients.

[Pamela Cross](https://lukesplace.ca/how-can-i-be-clear-about-the-difference-between-legal-advice-and-legal-information/) has set out some information about the difference between legal advice and legal information, which we have used to make this table:

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| LEGAL INFORMATION | LEGAL ADVICE |
| The provision of legal definitions and general information about the law that does not apply to the particular fact situation of an individualFor example: Question: What does the acronym *FOIP* mean?  | Legal advice interprets and applies legal rules and laws to a specific case.For example: These are the facts of my case; do the actions of my employer violate my human rights?  |
| Guidance on how to find legal resources such as court cases and rulesFor example: Where can I find cases on Human Rights violations in Alberta?  | Researching cases, court rules and relevant laws applicable to a particular fact situationFor example: What is the likely outcome of a lawsuit if I decide to file one? |
| Guidance in understanding when an inquiry qualifies as a legal one | Providing precise information tailored to a specific fact pattern on why an issue is a legal problem Question: What is the best legal action I can take in enforcing my rights?The question above requires legal advice |
| The provision of definitions on procedures, such as court processes and quasi-judicial bodies  | Furnishing procedural recommendations such as the appropriate court to institute an action and the necessary court applications to file |
| Referrals on where and when to get help, including legal advice For example: Outlining agencies that represent low-income persons in Alberta | Assessing a legal problem and providing recommendations and opinions on the law that applies to the problemFor example: Proffering advice on alternative steps a person can take in a case |

Unauthorized practice of law is giving legal advice without a licence or professional liability insurance in Alberta. The [*Legal Profession Act*](https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/l08.pdf), RSA 2000, c L-8 states that only active members of the Law Society can practise law and give legal advice. Practicing law without authorization is an offence.

Other resources: Canadian Public Legal Education Association: [Legal Information vs. Legal Advice: What’s the Difference?](https://www.cplea.ca/legal-information-vs-legal-advice-difference/)

Canadian Forum on Civil Justice: [Legal Advice vs Legal Information: Clearing Up the Murky Water](http://www.slaw.ca/2017/09/26/legal-advice-vs-legal-information-clearing-up-the-murky-water/)