

About Us

The Advice and Settlement Counsel (ASC) is a pilot project developed in consultation and cooperation with the 393 Bench and Bar Committee and the Judiciary and Court Services.

The program is part of the larger Family Law Limited Scope Services (FLLSS) Project. Funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario, the FLLSS Project is working to increase the availability of limited scope services in family law in Ontario.

More information for the ASC Pilot Project is available at:

<https://mediate393.ca/asctoronto-advice-and-settlement-counsel>

Further details for the Family Law Limited Scope Services Project is available at:

www.familylawlss.ca

Contact

HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesdays: 9:30am – 1:00 pm

Fridays: 12:30pm – 4:00 pm

Please see: <https://mediate393.ca/asctoronto-advice-and-settlement-counsel> for additions or changes to the schedule.

LOCATION

The Superior Court of Justice
393 University Avenue
9th Floor
Toronto, M5G 1E6

In early 2020, our location will be moving to 361 University Avenue.



We appreciate funding for this brochure by

Torkin|Manes
Barristers & Solicitors

Do You Need Legal Help With Your Family Law Matter?

ASC

Advice and Settlement Counsel

TORONTO

Advice and Settlement Counsel
Pilot Project

Toronto Family Court

What Is The Program About?

The Advice and Settlement Counsel (**ASC**) program provides family lawyers who can assist you on a limited scope retainer.

The program's goal is to help self-represented litigants in the following ways:

- Attending motions on Tuesdays;
- Attending court conferences on Fridays;
- Assisting you to negotiate consents when both parties are present;
- Providing summary advice when you are not at court about an upcoming court conference or motion, including advice about potential settlements, drafting settlement terms offers, and court protocols;
- Providing summary advice when you have negotiated a consent at a prior DRO session, mediation, court conference or motion;
- Providing summary advice (and coaching about next steps) when you have an upcoming court attendance or when you want to commence or respond to a case;
- Preparing "to do" lists so that you understand what steps need to be taken next.

How Does The Program Work?



FIRST STEPS

When you attend at court, please add your name to the sign-up sheet if you would like paid Duty Counsel services. Typically, you will be seen on a first-come basis unless there is a legal conflict with one of the roster lawyers, or the court requests assistance. While the program aims to help as many litigants as is reasonably possible, you may be asked to return another day if there are several clients ahead of you.

If you wish to retain the ASC lawyer, you will be asked to complete a form to provide information about your case, and if you agree, a Consent form requesting your participation in follow-up research.

The ASC lawyer will verify your identity and do a preliminary check to ensure that he or she will not be in conflict acting for you. Next, the lawyer and you will discuss the service(s) you are requesting and confirm an estimate of the time required to provide those services. If you agree on terms, you will sign a Retainer agreement.



SERVICES AND PAYMENT

After the Retainer agreement is signed, you will pay the ASC lawyer for up to one hour of services. The lawyer will provide the services agreed upon and then complete an information form indicating outcome(s) of the services and outlining the next steps you need to take.

The ASC lawyer will prepare and provide you with an invoice. If you and the lawyer have agreed to extend the time for services beyond one hour, any amounts owing are due immediately upon delivery of the invoice.

If you wish, you may choose to retain the ASC lawyer for additional services after the day at court by completing a new retainer (including payment terms) that are agreeable to both you and the lawyer.



WHAT DOES IT COST?

Advice and Settlement Counsel services are available at a rate of \$200.00 plus HST for up to one hour of services.