

The Legal Clinic

Main Office: 10 Sunset Boulevard
Perth, ON K7H 2Y2
Telephone: 613-264-8888
Toll Free: 1-800-597-4729
Facsimile: 613-264-8931

15 July 2016

RE: Raising Awareness for Claimants in the SLRC Class Action Settlement

We are writing to ask for your assistance in helping former residents of St. Lawrence Regional Centre (SLRC) who wish to make a claim for compensation for harm suffered at that institution. A class action lawsuit has led to a settlement for former residents, and The Legal Clinic will be helping individuals who wish to make claims.

The SLRC Class Action Settlement

As you likely know, SLRC was a government-operated institution that was open from 1975 to 1985 for people with disabilities. During that period, many individuals suffered significant harm while residing at SLRC and other similar institutions. This harm has led to class action lawsuits against Ontario, and Ontario has reached many settlements.

The most recent class action lawsuit, *Clegg v Ontario*, has resulted in a settlement that will provide compensation to former residents of SLRC. Individuals who lived at SLRC can receive between \$2 000 and \$42 000 in compensation for the harm they suffered.

To get compensation, claimants must submit a Claim Form to the Class Action Administrator who administers this settlement. *Each claimant must submit a Claim Form by 28 February 2017.* The Class Action Administrator will assess the severity of the harm in each case to determine the amount of money each claimant receives.

The claimants will not need to appear in person because the Class Action Administrator will only rely on documents. The documents that it will use are the claimant's Claim Form and the claimant's Resident File. So, the claimant or a representative must

- (a) carefully complete the Claim Form, AND
- (b) make an official request the claimant's Resident File.

The Resident File may be critical for establishing and valuing a claim. *The deadline for requesting the Resident File is 27 September 2016.* Claimants and their representatives must act quickly to ensure they request the Resident File in time.

Many people can help an individual make a claim. A former resident can submit a claim or have a representative submit a claim on his or her behalf. As well, an estate trustee can make a claim on behalf of a former resident who died after 16 June 2012. Finally, family members, support persons, and professionals can give statements to support claims.

Support for Potential Claimants

Potential claimants may need help to make claims, and The Legal Clinic will assist claimants in our area. We will provide legal advice to individuals who wish to make a claim, and we will help claimants complete the appropriate forms.

We have contacted your organization because you are well positioned to connect with former residents and their families. There are three ways in which community organizations can assist potential claimants:

1. Publicize the Claims Process and Identify Potential Claimants
 - spread information about the SLRC Class action settlement to potential claimants and their families

2. Help Potential Claimants Request Resident Files
 - *the deadline for requesting resident files (27 September 2016) is fast approaching; so, it is essential that potential claimants ask for these files as soon as possible*
 - to request the file, the claimant or the claimant's representative must make a request and provide a photocopy of a Photo ID to the Ministry of Community and Social Services at the following address:
 - Access and Privacy Office
 - Ministry of Community and Social Services
 - PO Box 978
 - 77 Wellesley Street West
 - Toronto ON M7A 1N3
 - Toll free: 1-855-376-9886
 - AccessandPrivacyOffice.mcscs@ontario.ca

3. Refer Potential Claimants to The Legal Clinic
 - we can help individuals determine if they qualify for compensation, get supporting documents, and complete the necessary forms
 - clients can contact us by calling or visiting our office:
 - The Legal Clinic
 - 10 Sunset Boulevard
 - Perth ON K7H 2Y2
 - Telephone: (613) 264-8888; Toll-Free: 1 (800) 597-4529

If you have any questions about the SLRC class action settlement, please contact us. Also, please let us know if you have any suggestions about ways that we can publicize this settlement and ensure as many individuals as possible receive compensation.

Regards,

Alex Geddes
Student at Law – The Legal Clinic
10 Sunset Blvd.
Perth, ON K7H 2Y2

T: 613-264-8888 ext. 27
F: 613-264-8931
E: geddesa@lao.on.ca