



Dementia Justice Clinic (Ottawa)

LAWYER DIRECTORY

RULES

Effective July 30, 2025

Last Updated January 7, 2026

Lawyers applying to join Dementia Justice Canada's Lawyer Directory (Ottawa) must agree to abide by the following rules:

1. Membership is limited to lawyers who are (1) current members in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario and (2) not the subject of a current formal disciplinary proceeding.
2. Lawyers are responsible for ensuring that they have appropriate insurance coverage. This is not a LawPRO-approved *pro bono* program. It is simply a list of private practice lawyers who, as part of their own business, are willing to offer a free 30-minute consultation to people who attend the Dementia Justice Clinic.
3. Prior to applying to join the directory, lawyers agree to read the following materials:
 - a) [Why am I left in the waiting room?](#) This brochure talks about the four Cs of elder law ethics: client identification; confidentiality; capacity; and conflicts of interest.
 - b) [Silent Epidemic: The Alarming Rise of Elder Abuse and Urgent Need for Estate Law Reform](#) (Sara Haider, CBA Elder Law Section Student Essay Contest, October 2023).
 - c) [Representing a Client with Diminished Capacity: How Do You Know It And What Do You Do About it?](#) (Charles P. Sabatino, Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, February 2000); and
 - d) [Dementia-friendly environment checklist](#) (Alzheimer Society UK).

These reading materials are provided for general information purposes only. They may be outdated and/or inaccurate. Lawyers are responsible for knowing the ethical, professional and legal obligations applicable to their practice.

Other guidance to consider: Many people with dementia experience “sundowning” or late-day confusion. It can help to schedule appointments in the morning when the

person is more alert. It can also help to confirm the meeting in writing, with a clear checklist of things the person should bring, and to send a number of reminders. At the appointment, speak clearly, slowly and with simple language. Use eye contact.

To help alleviate the person's anxiety, you or your staff may wish to offer a familiarisation visit at your office prior to their appointment.

It might not be possible for you to achieve all the recommended good practices. For example, you might be unable to replace your dark office carpet (people with dementia may perceive a dark carpet as hole, which can be distressing for them). But small changes over time can make a difference and enhance the person's experience.

4. The current annual membership fee is \$50 per calendar year. The fee is non-refundable and not prorated for lawyers who join the directory part way through the year. Lawyers who signed up in 2025 will have their membership continue to Dec. 31, 2026 at no extra cost.
5. Membership renewals will be due each January (the first renewal period will be Jan. 2027). There may be additional reading materials or training at the time of renewal.
6. Clinic attendees will contact participating lawyers directly and identify themselves as someone who attended the Dementia Justice Clinic and is interested in a free 30-minute consultation. The lawyer is under no obligation to provide the consultation. For example, the lawyer may be in a conflict of interest or not have availability in their schedule.
7. There is currently no cap to the number of lawyers in the directory.
8. Lawyers can cancel their membership at any time; however, the fee is non-refundable. The lawyer will be removed from the directory, and the lawyer understands that clinic attendees who received previous versions of the directory might contact the lawyer for a consultation.

Updates:

January 7, 2026

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