

Frequently Asked Questions Limited Licensing

As of January 1, 2026, limited licensees are part of the legal system in Saskatchewan. They are insured and licensed by the Law Society of Saskatchewan to serve the public and support access to legal services.

What is a limited licensee?

A limited licensee is an individual who is not admitted as a lawyer with the Law Society but has been granted a limited licence to practice law that is restricted to specific areas of practice reflecting their education, training, or experience relevant to the delivery of legal services.

What can limited licensees do?

Depending on their licence, limited licensees can provide advice and negotiate with respect to legal rights and responsibilities, draft or complete legal documents, or represent an entity or person at an administrative tribunal or Provincial Court.

Limited licensees are licensed in different areas of the law, based on their education, training, and experience. At present, limited licensees can help people in Saskatchewan with the following permitted services:

- Cases before administrative tribunals and Provincial Court such as small claims, traffic matters, and summary conviction matters under the *Criminal Code*
- Family law services limited to separation agreements, uncontested or joint divorce, and parenting arrangements
- Future planning services limited to wills, powers of attorney, guardianship, and health care directives
- Administration of estates not exceeding \$25,000
- Limited corporate legal services, contracts, and land title transfers and interest registrations and discharges
- Preparing for self-representation in court as related to permitted services

Some limited licensees may also provide notary public services.

What education or training do limited licensees have?

Limited licensees have the following Canadian education or work experience:

- a degree in justice-related studies from a recognized school;
- a certificate or courses from a recognized school in the subject area related to their scope of practice;
- a law degree from a Canadian common law faculty or a Certificate of Qualification; or
- a high school diploma and five years of supervised related substantive legal experience.

A recognized school is “an educational institution offering a degree, certificate or targeted courses in justice-related studies or subject areas related to a limited licensee’s scope of practice...”.

Limited licensees must also complete six hours of continuing professional development training annually, two hours of which must relate to ethics.

Are limited licensees more affordable than lawyers?

Limited licensees can provide an affordable option for those in need of legal services or representation. Like lawyers, limited licensees may offer different pricing and payment models. Before hiring a limited licensee, ask them about their fees and rates for services.

Having more options for affordable legal services helps to reduce the number of people without assistance in resolving their legal issues. This also helps to guide people away from seeking advice from non-regulated individuals who are not bound by ethical conduct and are not insured for negligence or mistakes.

Are limited licensees bound by ethical guidelines?

Yes. Limited licensees must complete a mandatory course on the *Code of Professional Conduct for Limited Licensees* provided by the Law Society of Saskatchewan and must adhere to the *Code*.

Can a limited licensee ask for a retainer or money in advance?

No. Limited licensees cannot accept money in advance (in trust) for the delivery of legal services.

Does a limited licensee have lawyer-client or solicitor-client privilege?

Maybe. A limited licensee is bound by confidentiality and information they are told in confidence by a client cannot be shared unless the law or duty requires disclosure. However, unlike lawyers, there is not yet established law that supports an independent right to privilege for limited licensees.

Solicitor-client privilege protects from disclosure communications between lawyers and their clients regarding legal advice. Some courts have identified lawyer-client or solicitor-client privilege to apply to paralegals, but a court decision related to limited licensees has not yet occurred. As this is not yet a decided matter, clients and limited licensees should be cautious.

Can a limited licensee provide independent legal advice?

Yes. Within their permitted services, a limited licensee can independently represent people and provide independent legal advice.

Can a limited licensee give and accept undertakings and trust conditions?

Yes. Similar to lawyers, a limited licensee may give and accept undertakings and trust conditions. Also similar to lawyers, there is no obligation to accept undertakings and trust conditions from a limited licensee.

In what business structure can a limited licensee practice?

Limited licensees can practice as a sole proprietorship or limited liability partnership or work at a law firm. Some limited licensees may also work for an organization or corporation.

What are differences between limited licensees and lawyers?

Limited licensees and lawyers have different education, training and admission requirements and limited licensees have a limited scope of practice while lawyers do not have limits on their practice. Limited licensees are not permitted to hold funds in trust, lawyers can.

Saskatchewan Standards	Lawyers	Limited Licensees
Education/work experience	Yes	Yes (more limited)
Training and admission	Yes	Yes (more limited)
Continuing professional development	Yes - 12 hours (2 ethics) annually	Yes - 6 hours (2 ethics) annually
Scope of practice	No limits on practice	Limits on practice
Ethical standards	Yes - <i>Code of Professional Conduct for Lawyers</i>	Yes - <i>Code of Professional Conduct for Limited Licensees</i>
Solicitor-client privilege	Yes	Maybe (not guaranteed)
Complaint and discipline process	Yes	Yes
Professional liability insurance	Yes	Yes
Ability to operate a trust account	Yes	No
Regulatory oversight body	Yes	Yes

Questions

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