

Public Trustee Services

Protecting the Personal and Financial Interests of Vulnerable Persons



What are “Public Trustee Services” and who might need them?

Public Trustee Services refer to the range of legal supports offered to protect the personal and financial interests of vulnerable persons in New Brunswick.

There are many reasons why people may need Public Trustee Services. These services provide protection and assistance for individuals who require decision-making support in order to manage their financial or personal affairs. This may include the elderly, children, missing or deceased persons, or individuals living with disabilities. These individuals may have no one willing, able or available to support them.

Public Trustee Services operates under the umbrella of the **New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission**. The authority of the Public Trustee is found in the *Public Trustee Act* and other provincial statutes.

The mandate of the Public Trustee may include:

- Providing personal and financial trustee and guardianship services to adults in need of decision-making support;
- Administering the estates of deceased and missing persons;
- Protecting the financial interests of children.

How does the Public Trustee protect vulnerable persons?



Manage Property and Financial Matters

– The Public Trustee may consent to act as an attorney under a power of attorney, or be appointed by the Court as a trustee or as a representative. This provides the authority to make decisions about property, investments and finances.



Make Personal Care Decisions

– The Public Trustee may consent to act as an attorney under a power of attorney for personal care or be appointed by the Court as a representative of the person for a client. This involves making decisions about personal care matters. It may include decisions on where the person will live and who will provide their day-to-day care and make health care decisions.



Act as Administrator or Executor of Estates

– The Public Trustee may consent to be appointed to handle the estate of a person who has died in New Brunswick leaving assets within the province, when there is no one willing and/or able to settle the estate.

The Public Trustee does not become involved in mediating family disputes nor investigates cases of financial abuse, but can make referrals.

Is there a fee for Public Trustee Services?

Public Trustee Services charges a reasonable fee to clients using their services. They can explain the fees to individuals, families or representatives of clients on a case by case basis. The fee is based on the specific service as well as reimbursements for related costs. The Public Trustee collects the required fees from the assets of the person they represent.



You can ask for a copy of the **fee schedule** or you can find it online in the **Regulations** under the *Public Trustee Act*.

How do I apply for Public Trustee Services?

Any individual can make a referral to the Public Trustee. Requests for Public Trustee Services must be made in writing through the completion of the appropriate Application for Services.

- *Application to Appoint Public Trustee as POA or Executor (Form 01)*
- *Application of Referral to Administer an Estate (Form 02)*
- *Application for Adult Services (Form 03)*

For more information
on Public Trustee
Services:



Public Trustee Services

500 Beaverbrook Court, Suite 501

Fredericton NB E3B 5X4

Telephone: 506-444-3688 or

Toll-free 1-888-336-8383

Email: public.trustee@gnb.ca

www.legalaid-aidejuridique-nb.ca/

This pamphlet was developed in cooperation with:



Public Legal Education
and Information Service
of New Brunswick

You can contact the **Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick (PLEIS-NB)** for general information and resources on mental capacity, powers of attorney, going to a nursing home, and more. Check out: **www.legal-info-legale.nb.ca** and search *planning ahead*.