



Pro Bono Law
Saskatchewan

Avord Tower
1650 – 2002 Victoria Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0R7

p: (306) 569-3098
f: (306) 569-2198
e: info@pblsask.ca
w: www.pblsask.ca

Insurance Coverage & Pro Bono Legal Services

This document explains two Law Society Membership status' as they relate to insurance coverage and pro bono legal services.

1. Pro Bono Membership status
2. Employees of the Government of Canada and Saskatchewan government institutions

Pro Bono Membership

Planning your retirement? Going on parental leave? Leaving the practice for a while? Pro Bono Membership Status is a fee-exempt membership status for lawyers who are volunteering for a Saskatchewan Law Society approved pro bono organization. Saskatchewan Lawyers Insurance Association (SLIA) provides coverage for lawyers who provide pro bono services to clients through an approved pro bono program. All volunteer opportunities with Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan meet the requirements of an approved program.

Employees of Government

Rule 1202(3)(a) and (b) of the [Law Society of Saskatchewan Rules \(Rules\)](#) makes it so members employed with a Saskatchewan government institution as defined in *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and members employed by the Government of Canada who are eligible for legal assistance and indemnification are exempt from payment and coverage by SLIA. Except, coverage is provided, at no fee, when providing pro bono legal services through a Law Society of Saskatchewan approved pro bono program. All volunteer opportunities with Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan meet the requirements of an approved program.

In sum, if you are a lawyer who works for the Government of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan government institutions, or the Government of Canada and do not pay SLIA fees by virtue of that employment, you are likely still covered by SLIA for volunteering you do with Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan.

The Details

SLIA provides professional liability insurance to members of the Law Society of Saskatchewan. Rule 1202(1) of the Rules specifies that other than a student-at-law or unless exempt pursuant to subrule (3) or Rule 717, each member shall pay to SLIA a liability insurance assessment in the amount fixed by the Benchers.

Rule 1202(3) details member who are exempt:

- (a) Subject to the regulations, members employed by or on an exclusive contract with the Saskatchewan government institution as defined in *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in accordance with section 11.1 of the Act;

- (b) members employed by the Federal Department of Justice, or the Public Prosecution Service of Canada and other members employed by the Government of Canada who are eligible for legal assistance and indemnification under the Government of Canada *Policy on Legal Assistance and Indemnification*, September 1, 2018, or successor policies, or comparable legal assistance and indemnification from the Government of Canada.
- (g) Active Pro Bono members;
- (h) ...

Rule 1202(7) states,

A member who is exempt from paying the assessment pursuant to subrule 3(a), (b), (c), (d) or (g) is covered by the liability policy for services provided through a pro bono organization approved by the Society, subject to the terms and conditions of the liability policy.

Exempt members are extended insurance coverage pursuant to Endorsement No. 2 of the [Lawyers' Professional Liability Insurance Group Policy](#) in Saskatchewan:

It is understood and agreed that coverage under this policy is extended to members of the Law Society, excepting students-at-law, who are exempt from insurance coverage pursuant to the Rules of the Law Society for an Occurrence arising out of Professional Services which they are entitled pursuant to the Rules of the Law Society to perform and that are performed on a pro bono basis through a pro bono organization approved by the Law Society of Saskatchewan.