

This is in reply to your inquiry about making a claim against an Alberta Lawyer for professional negligence. ALIA manages the insurance program for the Law Society.

To make a claim, you may write a letter to us including the following:

- Name of Lawyer and law firm
- Lawyer's file number (if you know it)
- The legal service (i.e. service of house, divorce, injury claim)
- Date of service
- What you think the lawyer did wrong
- How that resulted in financial loss to you
- Documentation and explanation of financial loss
- Your address and daytime phone number

Or

- Commence a lawsuit against the lawyer(s).

**Notifying us of a claim does NOT stop or extend the limitation date (deadline) by which you must start a lawsuit to keep your claim alive. The Alberta Limitation Act governs limitation dates. Depending on the circumstances of your case, the limitation date may be as little as two years from when the lawyer did the legal work.**

**We do not and cannot give you legal advice. Although you are not required to hire a lawyer to represent you in presenting your claim, we recommend and encourage you to do so.**

If we receive a letter from you, we will investigate the claim. This will take a minimum of several weeks. We or our insurance defence counsel will then contact you or your new lawyer.

If you start a lawsuit, counsel will represent the lawyer(s) and defend the lawsuit. There may also be settlement negotiations.

The personal information collected from you will be used by the Alberta Lawyers Insurance Association (ALIA) for one or more purposes contemplated by the Legal Profession Act, the Rules of the Law Society, the Code of Conduct, or a resolution of the Benchers and will be accessible to all departments of the Law Society. The information may be used or disclosed by ALIA, now or in the future, for regulatory purposes, including Law Society investigations and proceedings. We may contact you to obtain additional information, or to obtain clarification on the information you provided. Should you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of this information, please contact us at [alia@lawsociety.ab.ca](mailto:alia@lawsociety.ab.ca) or (403) 229-4716.