

## Who are we?

We are the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saint John. Elizabeth Fry was born in England in 1780 and after witnessing the deplorable state of the prisons and the wretchedness of the women prisoners and the children who were in jail with them, she devoted her life to prison reform. The life and work of this noble courageous lady inspired the formation of societies to help women prisoners. The first group in Canada was formed in BC in 1940 and the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saint John was officially organized in April 1987.

Our purpose is:

To offer support to women and girls in conflict with the law, and to help their families.

To facilitate communication among groups and individuals working with women in the criminal justice system.

To encourage and to develop public awareness and understanding of issues concerning women in conflict with the law.



### **Please call the Elizabeth Fry Society at 635-8851 if...**

You don't know how to get a lawyer

You have questions relating to your court appearances.

You need clarification about the court process.

You don't understand your legal rights.

You want someone to go to court with you.

You want some moral support.

You want information and referrals to community resources

### **Key Legal Terms**

**Adjournment:** The court hearing is temporarily stopped until another time or day.

**Criminal offence:** An offence that violates the Criminal Code of Canada. If convicted of a criminal offence a person has a criminal record. There are two types of criminal offences:

**Indictable offence:** A serious offence, such as murder which has serious

penalties (two years to life imprisonment).

### **Summary Conviction offence:**

A less serious offence with lesser penalties (under six months in jail and/or \$2000 in fines).

**Plea:** The answer of an accused ("guilty" or "not guilty") when charged with an offence.

### **Pre-Sentence Report:**

A description of the accused's family life and personal situation, prepared by a probation officer, which helps the judge decide an appropriate sentence.

**Sentence hearing:** A hearing held after the accused has been found guilty of an offence. The judge can hear evidence to help decide on an appropriate sentence.

### **Provincial offence:**

Violation of a provincial law. Some of these offences include speeding, hunting at night, parking in a disabled parking spot and drinking liquor in public. Conviction of a provincial offence does not give you a criminal record.

**Appearance notice:** A document which tells the accused to go to court at a specific time to answer charges that have been laid.

## **Tips for the Courtroom**

When the judge enters the courtroom, a court official will call the room to order and everyone must remain standing until the judge sits.

You must also stand when you are addressing the court or when the judge is speaking to you.

If you do not know where to stand or sit, a court official will tell you where you should be in the courtroom (Usually it's the front row).

Be polite and respectful. Call the judge "Your Honor".

Dress appropriately. Court is a serious occasion.

Speak clearly and only when it is your turn to talk.

Don't eat in court, carry opened beverages (ex. Coffee), chew gum or wear a hat. Turn off cell phones.

**Elizabeth Fry  
Society of Saint  
John**

## **Court Program**



***Helping***

***Women and Girls***

***In Conflict  
With the Law***

For Further Information  
Contact

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Saint John**

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