

LIVE-IN CAREGIVERS: GET YOUR MONEY BACK!

RECRUITMENT FEES ARE ILLEGAL

It is illegal for anyone to charge you a fee for finding or trying to find you a job as a live-in caregiver. This includes recruiters, recruitment agencies, and your employer.

Recruitment fees have been illegal since March 22, 2010. But a survey found that two-thirds of caregivers who arrived after that date paid fees. The average fee paid was \$3,275.00!

3.5 YEARS TO MAKE A CLAIM

You have 3.5 years from the date you paid the fee to get it back. That means you might be able to wait until you have applied for permanent residence before asking the money be returned. Unfortunately, this only became the law on March 22, 2010, so if you paid a fee before that date, you cannot get it back under this law.

YOUR RIGHT TO YOUR PROPERTY

It is illegal for your employer or a recruitment agency to take a live-in caregiver's property. For example, they cannot take your passport or your work permit.

WHAT TO DO

Make a complaint to the Ministry of Labour using the “*Employment Protection for Foreign Nationals Act (Live-in Caregivers and Others), 2009 Claim Form*” (<http://bit.ly/11dU17A>). It helps to have documents that prove you paid fees like receipts and pay stubs, but you can still file a claim even without these.

For more information:

- Contact the Caregivers' Action Centre (see information below)
- Contact Mary Gellatly at Parkdale Community Legal Services: (416) 531-2411 x246.
- Visit the Ministry of Labour website on the *Employment Protection for Foreign Nationals Act (EPFNA)*, which is the law that makes recruitment fees illegal: (<http://bit.ly/hTpyVB>)

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The Caregivers' Action Centre (CAC) is a grass-roots organization of live-in caregivers, former caregivers, newcomers and their supporters.