
Finding Bankruptcy Records

230 Research Guide

Most Recent Update:
June 2021

The Archives of Ontario holds the court proceeding files for personal and corporate bankruptcies from 1990 and before. These files may contain various petitions, submissions, statements, applications and orders regarding the handling of the bankruptcy and the discharge of the various assets and debts.

For files from 1991 and after, contact the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy (a list of their offices is below) or [click here to visit their website](#).

This guide is to be used with our online Archives Descriptive Database. [Click here to access the linked descriptions that appear on our website](#); click on *Accessing Our Collection*, then on *Archives Descriptive Database*, then on *Advanced Search*, then on *Search Group of Archival Records* and enter the reference code (e.g. RG 22-5821) in the *Reference Code* field.

THE RECORDS

To locate a bankruptcy file, either at the Archives of Ontario or at a courthouse, you need to know the name of the individual or corporation declaring privation, the year the bankruptcy action was started, and the courthouse where the proceedings were heard.

Pre-1920:

Those declaring destitution under the Insolvency Act had their case before the local District Courts (before 1849) or before County/District Courts (after 1848). The Archives holds some of these records.

To locate these records on our website, click on *Accessing Our Collection*, then on *Archives Descriptive Database*, then on *Advanced Search*, then on *Search Group of Archival Records*. Enter the word “insolvency” and the name of the county or district into the *Keyword* field to see what records we have.

From 1920 to 1976:

While a bankruptcy application could be filed at any courthouse in Ontario, the actual court proceedings were eventually heard in Toronto before the Supreme Court for York County.

To locate the 1920-1967 records, you can use the Supreme Court at Toronto bankruptcy procedure books (series RG 22-5821), which serves as an index for all the bankruptcy case files for Ontario. [Click here to access the description for the Supreme Court at Toronto bankruptcy procedure books \(series RG 22-5821\)](#). The. These records are available on self-service microfilm in our Reading Room. Then, to order a court file, contact the Archives quoting series RG 22-5822, the name of the bankrupt person or company, and the file number and year.

To locate the 1968-1976 records, you must contact the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcies which maintains a central index for all bankruptcies in Canada since 1968. Call or visit their nearest office listed below or [click here to visit their website](#). Then contact the Archives, quoting series RG 22-5822, the name of the bankrupt person or company, and the file number and year and date of discharge provided by the Office. The file number consists of a two-digit court identifier and a six-digit file number (example: file number 31-123456 is a file from the Toronto courthouse).

Please note that the Toronto courthouse continued to use its own numbering system until the fall of 1981. As a result, the Supreme Court at Toronto bankruptcy index (series RG 22-5918), which provides the file number used by the Toronto courthouse, also needs to be consulted. The index is available on microfilm in our Reading Room. [Click here to access the description and microfilm list for the Supreme Court at Toronto bankruptcy index \(series RG 22-5918\)](#),

From 1977 to 1990:

Since 1977, Bankruptcy court proceedings could also take place in the Supreme Court of Ontario in the following locations:

- from 1977 on: London (file numbers beginning with 35)
- from 1981 on: Ottawa (file numbers beginning with 33) and Sudbury (file numbers beginning with 34)
- from 1982 on Hamilton (file numbers beginning with 32)

Please note that court proceedings started in Hamilton and Sudbury could be transferred to the Toronto courthouse for completion, even though the file number did not change. Additionally, court proceedings for northwestern Ontario bankruptcies could take place in Winnipeg, Manitoba (file numbers beginning with 21), and the file could then be transferred to the Toronto courthouse after the proceedings were completed.

To locate these records, contact the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcies which maintains a central index for all bankruptcies in Canada since 1968. Call or visit their nearest office listed below or [click here to visit their website](#). Then contact the Archives,

quoting the code number of the courthouse, the name of the bankrupt person or company, the file number and year, and the date of discharge.

SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKRUPTCIES ADDRESSES

Place Bell Building
160 Elgin Street, 11thFloor, Suite B-100
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2P7
Tel.: 1-866-941-2863 (toll free)
Fax: 613-941-9490

Federal Building
55 Bay Street N, 9thFloor
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 3P7
Tel.: 1-866-941-2863 (toll free)
Fax: 613-941-9490

151 Yonge Street, 4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2W7
Tel.: 1-866-941-2863 (toll free)
Fax: 613-941-9490

Federal Building
451 Talbot Street, Suite 303
London, Ontario N6A 5C9
Tel.: 1-866-941-2863 (toll free)
Fax: 613-941-9490

A NOTE OF CAUTION

*The Archives of Ontario **will not send original files** to the courthouses when records are requested for court proceedings. We can photocopy bankruptcy files or specific documents, certify them upon request, and send them to our customers. For further information about our procedures, charges, and payment methods, [click here to consult our Customer Service Guide 105, Reproduction services and fees.](#)*

The Archives staff cannot give advice as to what documents may be needed for a bankruptcy proceeding, whether the documents need to be certified, or the current status of a bankruptcy. Please contact a bankruptcy trustee or lawyer if you have any questions of a legal nature.

Making Contact

Ready and Willing

Although unable to do your research for you, our reference archivists are waiting to assist you. You may telephone or write to them by mail or email or — best of all — visit the Archives of Ontario.

Contact us

Telephone: 416-327-1600 Toll free (Ontario): 1-800-668-9933

Email: [Click here to email the Archives of Ontario](#)

Address: Archives of Ontario, 134 Ian Macdonald Blvd., Toronto, ON M7A 2C5

Website

For information about the Archives' holdings, as well as access to research guides and other customer service materials available through the Archives of Ontario. [Click here to visit our website.](#)

Customer Service and Research Guides

The Archives of Ontario has published a series of in-depth research guides on a variety of specific topics. For more information, please see “Customer Service and Research Guides” under “Accessing Our Collection” on the home page of the Archives website.

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Therefore, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information. Readers should where possible verify the information before acting on it.