
Finding Bankruptcy Records

230 Research
Guide

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The Archives of Ontario holds the court proceeding files for personal and corporate bankruptcies that are over 20 years old. 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 20 years old and less, contact the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy (a list of their offices is below) or visit them at <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/bsf-osb.nsf/eng/home>.

This guide is to be used with our online Archives Descriptive Database. You can access the linked descriptions that appear on our website (www.ontario.ca/archives); click on **Start Your Research**, 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 **Start Your Research**, 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, first consult the [Supreme Court at Toronto bankruptcy procedure books \(series RG 22-5821\)](#), which serve as an index for all the bankruptcy case files for Ontario. 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 visit <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/bsf-osb.nsf/eng/home>. 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 in the process of being made available in the Reading Room on microfilm; until it is available, call or visit the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy then contact the Archives, as outlined above.

For post-1976 files that are less than 20 years old: Since 1967, 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 visit <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/bsf-osb.nsf/eng/home>. 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, 11th Floor, Suite B-100
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2P7
Tel.: 1-877-376-9902 (toll free)
Fax: 613-996-0949

25 St. Clair Avenue E, 6th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M2
Tel.: 1-877-376-9902 (toll free)
Fax: 416-973-7440

Federal Building
55 Bay Street N, 9thFloor
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 3P7
Tel.: 1-877-376-9902 (toll free)
Fax: 905-572-4066

Federal Building
451 Talbot Street, Suite 303
London, Ontario N6A 5C9
Tel.: 1-877-376-9902 (toll free)
Fax: 519-645-5139

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. See our Customer Service Guide 105 (Reproduction Services Fees) for further information about our procedures, charges, and payment methods.

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 bankruptcy records research for you, our reference staff are waiting to assist you. You may telephone or write to us 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
Fax: 416-327-1999
Email: reference@ontario.ca
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, please visit our website <http://www.ontario.ca/archives>.

Customer Service and Research Guides

The Archives of Ontario publishes a series of in-depth research guides on a variety of specific topics. For more information, please see "**Research Guides and Tools**" under "**Start Your Research**" on the home page of the Archives website.

This document may contain references to electronic links that can be activated only by using the HTML version found on the Archives of Ontario website.

This information is provided as a public service. Although we endeavour to ensure that the information is as current and accurate as possible, errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information. Readers should where possible verify the information before acting on it.