



Legal aid,
a network at your service
www.csj.qc.ca



Legal Brief*

Vol. 18

Number 01

January 2026

What is a reasonable lifespan warranty?

Réonaldo is a 12-year-old hockey player. Last fall, while out shopping with his grandmother, he stopped by a specialty sports store to admire the hockey gear. That is when he spotted the hockey stick of his dreams. It was perfect, exactly what he needed.

The following day, without Réonaldo knowing, his grandmother returned to the store and bought the hockey stick, planning to give it to him two months later as a Christmas present.

At the checkout, the salesperson told her that the hockey stick came with a 30-day warranty from the purchase date. Since it was a well-known brand, Réonaldo's grandmother was not too concerned. She paid the \$450, confident that the price reflected the quality of the stick.

On Christmas Eve, Réonaldo was over the moon when he unwrapped the long-awaited stick. On January 5, during his first hockey session with his new stick, he heard a crack on his very first pass. Disaster struck—the stick had cracked upon contact with the puck.

His grandmother was devastated. Since she had bought the stick in October, the 30-day warranty had expired. In desperation, she wondered whether there were any other remedies to have the stick replaced.

In Quebec, the *Consumer Protection Act* provides for several safeguards for consumers. This is known as the legal warranty, a minimum level of protection for consumers that automatically applies to any purchase. One of these safeguards concerns the reasonable lifespan of a product, meaning that a product must be able to withstand normal use for a reasonable period of time.

What counts as a reasonable lifespan depends on several factors, including the price paid, how the product is used and its characteristics. Since the law does not specify the reasonable lifespan of products, the issue is determined based on common sense and past court decisions in similar cases.

In this specific case, the key question is whether it is reasonable for a \$450 hockey stick bought at a specialty sports store to break after only a few minutes of use?

Obviously, one cannot expect a \$25 hockey stick from a big-box store to be as durable as a more expensive model bought at a specialty store.

As a result, Réonaldo's grandmother could contact both the merchant, namely the sports store, and the hockey stick manufacturer to request a free repair, a replacement or a refund of the stick under the legal warranty of a product's reasonable lifespan.

If you would like to learn more about this topic, feel free to contact your local legal aid office.

To find the contact information for your legal aid office, please click on the following link www.csj.qc.ca.

We also invite you to visit this link: [Office de la protection du consommateur](#)

Original text prepared
M^e Caroline Simard
Lawyer at the Chicoutimi
legal aid office

Contact Us

Commission des
services juridiques
Communications Department
P.O. Box 123
Succursale Desjardins
Montreal, Quebec
H5B 1B3

Telephone: 514-873-3562
Fax: 514-864-2351

www.csj.qc.ca

* The information set out in this document is not a legal interpretation.

The masculine gender is used to designate persons solely in order to simplify the text.