

## LEGAL AID NSW CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- family law and de facto relationships
- criminal law
- consumer issues
- tenancy, caravan park and retirement village disputes
- domestic violence
- child welfare
- some migration applications
- social security matters
- discrimination and civil liberties
- protected estate matters
- mental health and guardianship matters
- veterans' pension appeals
- public interest environmental matters
- separate representatives for children in family court matters
- public interest coronial inquests

**Legal aid can be granted to children and other people at 'special disadvantage' in an even wider range of matters.**

## WHAT DO WE DO?

**We give free legal advice. Advice is usually limited to about 20 minutes.**

You can get family law advice without an appointment at our city central office. Parramatta office has family law clinic days on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am–12.30pm and 2–4pm. To make an appointment on other matters or at another location, call your nearest Legal Aid office (contact details at back).

If you need more than legal advice, we may provide a lawyer to help with your case. This is called being granted legal aid. If you are granted legal aid, you may be helped by a legal aid lawyer or, in some cases, a private lawyer.

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## HOW TO APPLY FOR LEGAL AID

**To apply for a grant of legal aid, you must complete an application form.**

Forms are available from all our offices and from duty lawyers at local courts.

In most civil and family law cases, you can also apply through a private lawyer who does legal aid work. A private lawyer can charge you for any work not covered by a grant of legal aid.

The application form is used to assess:

- your financial means (your income and what you own)
- the merit of your case (whether it is likely to succeed and whether the cost can be justified)
- whether you meet Legal Aid policy guidelines.

**A grant of legal aid is not free. Most people will have to pay a contribution. The amount depends on your financial situation and the area of law.**

## SPECIAL SERVICES

**Special services provide free and independent legal advice about particular types of legal problems.**

### People with mental health problems, their family and friends

Contact our Mental Health Advocacy Service on 9745 4277 for legal issues relating to mental health.

### Prisoners in gaols

Contact our Prisoners Legal Service about prison or criminal law matters on 9219 5888 (reverse charges).

### Veterans and their dependants

Contact our Veterans' Advocacy Service on 9219 5148 or email: [veterans@legalaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:veterans@legalaid.nsw.gov.au) to find out about your rights and entitlements under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

## SERVICES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

### Parents in child support matters

Call our Child Support Service on 9633 9916 or 1800 451 784 (outside Sydney metropolitan area).

### Children and young people

**We advise and represent children involved in criminal cases in the Children's Courts.**

We have duty lawyers at:

- Bidura Children's Court (Glebe)
- Campbelltown Children's Court
- Parramatta Children's Court

For other courts, see the duty lawyer at the court.

**For urgent advice call the Youth HotLine 1800 10 18 10.** Weekdays, 9am–midnight. Fri–Sun and public holidays, 24 hours.

## All our offices give advice in child care and protection.

Care matters come before the court usually when the Department of Community Services makes an application.

We also represent children and parents in court, and appear on a duty basis in Children's Courts. Help at court is provided by legal aid offices nearest the Children's Courts.

## CRIMINAL MATTERS

**If you are going to the Local Court about a criminal matter, you can speak to a duty lawyer.**

Duty lawyers are available at Local Courts every day. If this is your first time in court and you want to see a duty lawyer, you should be at court by 9am. The duty lawyer may not be able to assist you to finalise your case on the first day. You may need to adjourn your case.

If your case has been adjourned or you are pleading 'not guilty' you should contact a Legal Aid office well before your hearing.

**Legal Aid may also be able to help you if you are appearing in the District Court, Supreme Court or the Court of Criminal Appeal.**

Our lawyers can help you if you are on remand and want to apply for bail to the Supreme Court in Sydney.

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## OTHER SERVICES

### Hearing/speech impaired



If you are hearing/speech impaired, you can communicate with us by calling the National Relay Service (NRS) on 133 677.

## LEGAL AID NSW OFFICES

### HEAD OFFICE

Ground Floor  
323 Castlereagh St  
SYDNEY NSW  
2000  
Tel: 9219 5000

### MANLY

Ground Floor  
39 East Esplanade  
MANLY 2095  
Tel: 9977 1479

### LISMORE

Suite 6, Level 4  
29 Molesworth St  
LISMORE 2480  
Tel: 6621 2082

### METROPOLITAN OFFICES

#### BANKSTOWN

Level 8, Civic Tower  
Cnr Rickard Rd &  
Jacobs Sts  
BANKSTOWN 2200  
Tel: 9707 4555

#### BLACKTOWN

'Kildare Court'  
Level 2  
Suites 36 & 37  
13-17 Kildare Rd  
BLACKTOWN 2148  
Tel: 9621 4800

#### BURWOOD

Level 4  
74-76 Burwood Rd  
BURWOOD 2134  
Tel: 9747 6155

#### CAMPBELLTOWN

Suite 1, Level 4  
171-179 Queen St  
CAMPBELLTOWN  
2560  
Tel: 4628 2922

#### FAIRFIELD

Suite 1, Level 2  
25 Smart St  
FAIRFIELD 2165  
Tel: 9727 3777

#### LIVERPOOL

Level 4 Interdell  
Centre 47 Scott St  
LIVERPOOL 2170  
Tel: 9601 1200

#### PARRAMATTA

**Civil & Family Law**  
Level 5, 91 Phillip St  
PARRAMATTA 2150  
Tel: 9891 1600

#### Criminal Law

Parramatta Justice  
Precinct  
Level 1,  
160 Marsden St  
PARRAMATTA 2150  
Tel: 8688 3800

#### PENRITH

95 Henry St  
PENRITH 2750  
Tel: 4732 3077

#### SUTHERLAND

Ground Floor  
3-5 Stapleton Ave  
SUTHERLAND 2232  
Tel: 9521 3733

#### REGIONAL OFFICES

#### COFFS HARBOUR

41 Little St  
COFFS HARBOUR  
2450  
Tel: 6651 7899

#### DUBBO

64 Talbragar St  
DUBBO 2830  
Tel: 6885 4233

#### GOSFORD

Level 2  
37 William St  
GOSFORD 2250  
Tel: 4324 5611

#### NEWCASTLE

51-55 Bolton St  
NEWCASTLE 2300  
Tel: 4929 5482

#### Civil Law Centre

300 King St  
NEWCASTLE 2300  
Tel: 4921 8801

#### NOWRA

Suite 1, Level 2  
55-57 Berry St  
NOWRA 2541  
Tel: 4422 4351

#### ORANGE

121 Byng St  
ORANGE 2800  
Tel: 6362 8022

#### TAMWORTH

Level 1  
424-426 Peel St  
TAMWORTH 2340  
Tel: 6766 6322

#### WAGGA WAGGA

Ground floor, Suite F  
Best Place  
Morrow St  
WAGGA WAGGA  
2650  
Tel: 6921 6588

#### WOLLONGONG

73 Church St  
WOLLONGONG  
2500  
Tel: 4228 8299

## CAN'T GET TO A LEGAL AID NSW OFFICE?

You can get free legal information, referral or advice by telephoning LawAccess NSW on 1300 888 529 9am-5pm Monday-Friday. If you live in the country, and there is no Legal Aid NSW office near you, you can call LawAccess NSW, talk to a Chamber Registrar at your local court or see a private lawyer who does legal aid work.

## ARE YOU ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER?

You can get free help from all Legal Aid offices or from the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS).

ALS offices are listed in the phone book. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children can also get help from Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre on 1800 686 587 or the Indigenous Women's Contact Line on 1800 639 784.

## DO YOU NEED AN INTERPRETER?

If you need someone who speaks your own language to help you make an appointment with Legal Aid, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) 131 450 (9am-5pm). Ask your interpreter to connect you to the Legal Aid office nearest to you.

If you also need an interpreter in your language on the day of your advice session with Legal Aid, let us know at the time when you make your appointment. We will arrange an interpreter for free. If you are going to court and need an interpreter, ask your legal aid lawyer to arrange one.

This brochure is also available in Arabic, Cambodian, Chinese, Croatian, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Laotian, Macedonian, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish, Vietnamese

## WHO ELSE CAN HELP YOU?

### Chamber Registrars

Chamber Registrars in most local courts can give you free legal assistance and will help you fill out legal forms. Ring your local court to find out when you can see the Chamber Registrar.

### Community Legal Centres

For free legal advice and help with problems not covered by Legal Aid NSW. Call 9212 7333 or look in the white pages under Legal Centres. You can also search for a centre in your area at [www.swclc.org.au](http://www.swclc.org.au)

### Community Justice Centres

A free mediation service for people in dispute with friends, family members or neighbours. To find a centre near you phone 1800 990 777 or look in the white pages. Or visit [www.cjc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cjc.nsw.gov.au)

### Private Lawyers

The Law Society of NSW can refer you to private lawyers in your area. It can also provide information about private lawyers who do legal aid work. Contact the Law Society's Solicitor Referral Service on 9926 0300.

### LawAccess NSW

Free legal information, referral or advice either by phone (1300 888 529) or through their website [www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

# LEGAL AID NSW

# DO YOU HAVE A LEGAL PROBLEM?

Free advice & information  
Free workshops  
Help at court



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