

Grants of legal assistance

A grant of legal assistance is money used to pay a Victoria Legal Aid lawyer or a private lawyer to help you with your legal problem. A lawyer can:

- give you legal advice
- help you reach agreement
- prepare legal documents
- speak for you in court.

Getting a grant will depend on your financial situation and your legal problem. Grants are generally for criminal or family matters, but can be for some civil cases, such as discrimination, immigration, social security or mental health matters.

A grant is not always free. The amount you may have to pay depends on your financial situation.

Call us to find out how we can help you.

Getting an interpreter

You can get an interpreter. When you call us, ask for an interpreter in the language you speak. If you have an appointment at a Victoria Legal Aid office, ask us to get an interpreter for you.

You can also ring the **Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450** and ask to be put through to Victoria Legal Aid.

Respecting your privacy

We will not give your personal information to anyone, unless the law says otherwise.

We respect the confidentiality of all our clients. Therefore, if we have already helped someone involved in your case, we may only be able to give you general information. However, we may be able to refer you to another lawyer or organisation.

Our Legal Information Service

Open Monday to Friday, 8.45 am to 5.15 pm

Telephone 9269 0120 or country callers 1800 677 402



Contact us for free information about the law and how we can help you. You can speak to someone in English or other languages.

Our offices

Open Monday to Friday, 8.45 am to 5.15 pm

Bairnsdale	5153 1975
Ballarat	5329 6222
Bendigo	5448 2333
	Toll free 1800 254 500
Broadmeadows	9302 8777
Dandenong	9767 7111
Frankston	9784 5222
Geelong	5226 5666
	Toll free 1800 196 200
Horsham	5381 6000
	Toll free 1800 177 638
Melbourne	9269 0120
Morwell	5134 8055
Preston	9416 6444
Ringwood	9259 5444
Shepparton	5823 6200
Sunshine	9300 5333
Warrnambool	5559 7222

All our offices are accessible to people with a disability.

Our public law library

Open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm
350 Queen Street, Melbourne

Our website

www.legalaid.vic.gov.au

Do you have a
legal problem?
Victoria Legal Aid

 **Victoria
Legal Aid**
Lawyers And
Legal Services

About Victoria Legal Aid

We can help you with legal problems about criminal matters, family breakdown, family violence, child support, immigration, social security, mental health, discrimination, guardianship and administration, tenancy, debt and traffic offences.

Our services

Our free legal services include:

- information over the phone
- booklets and workshops
- a public law library
- advice at most courts and tribunals, or by appointment.

We may also give grants of legal assistance to people who can not afford a lawyer.

Free legal information over the phone

Call our Legal Information Service for free general information over the phone about the law and how we can help you. It is open Monday to Friday, 8.45 am to 5.15 pm.

Contact us on (03) 9269 0120 or 1800 677 402 (country callers).

Free community legal education

We have free booklets in English and other languages about the law and our services. You can get the booklets on our website or at any Victoria Legal Aid office.

We also have free workshops about divorce. Workshops are in English. If you have difficulty understanding English then you can bring a friend or relative to interpret for you.

Do you have a legal problem? Victoria Legal Aid

Free legal advice

We have lawyers who can talk to you about how the law applies to your legal problem and what you may be able to do about it.

We give free legal advice about many legal problems, including:

- criminal matters
- family breakdown matters
- family violence
- serious traffic offences and infringement fines
- some civil and human rights matters, including social security, debt, mental health, immigration and refugee, guardianship and discrimination matters.

We do not give legal advice about financial or business matters, such as taxation or commercial law, buying property, superannuation law or intellectual property law.

Contact a Victoria Legal Aid office listed on the back to make an appointment.

Lawyers at court

It is important that you get legal advice before you go to court.

However, if you do not have a lawyer, we have lawyers at many courts and tribunals across Victoria.

These 'duty lawyers' help people who have a court hearing on the day. They may be able to speak for you in court.

Many people want to see the duty lawyer, so we may not be able to help everyone. We have to help some people first. This includes:

- serious cases, including people in jail or people at risk of going in to jail
- matters involving children
- people who cannot afford legal help
- people who could not get legal advice before going to court.

Ask the staff at the court or tribunal if a duty lawyer is available.

Family dispute resolution service

Roundtable Dispute Management is a free service.

It helps parents who are going through a separation or divorce to resolve their family disputes without going to court. These disputes may be about parenting, maintenance and financial arrangements.

To use the service, at least one person in the family dispute must have a grant of legal assistance. For more information call us or speak to your lawyer.