

## Can I get 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.

## Where can I get more legal information?

More information is on our website at [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au)

We also have a range of free booklets in English and other languages. You can get the booklets on our website or at any Victoria Legal Aid office.

## About our services

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 free legal services include:

- information over the phone
- seminars and workshops
- advice at most courts and tribunals, or by appointment.

If you want ongoing help from a lawyer, you can apply for a grant of legal assistance. Getting a grant will depend on your financial situation and your legal problem. You can use a grant to:

- pay a lawyer to help reach agreement or speak for you in court
- go to our family dispute resolution service.

**Call us to find out how we can help you.**

## Our Criminal Law Service

Open Monday to Friday, 8.45 am to 5.15 pm  
Telephone 9269 0133

## 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

# Criminal Law Service

## Victoria Legal Aid

 **Victoria  
Legal Aid**  
Lawyers And  
Legal Services

## What is the Criminal Law Service?

The Criminal Law Service is the largest criminal defence practice in Victoria. It has over 33 lawyers and six public defenders. Many of our lawyers are accredited as criminal law specialists by the Law Institute of Victoria.

## How can we help you?

We can help you with legal advice before you are interviewed by the police right through to representing you at your trial.

We can give you free advice:

- over the telephone for urgent matters
- at an appointment
- if you are in prison
- at court on the day of your hearing.

Our criminal lawyers are experienced in all criminal law matters, including assaults, murder, property offences, dishonesty offences, fraud, drug offences, and sexual offences.

If Victoria Legal Aid has already helped someone involved in your case, we may only be able to give you general information. We may also be able to refer you to another lawyer or organisation.

## How can I get legal advice?

You can call us for free legal advice from 8.45 am to 5.15 pm, Monday to Friday, on 9269 0133 or 1800 677 402 (country callers).

If you need detailed advice, we can make an appointment for you to talk to a lawyer.

# Criminal Law Service

## Victoria Legal Aid

To help us give the best advice you should bring:

- everything the police have given you
- your Centrelink card or your most recent pay slips
- bank statements for the last three months.

## Can I get help in prison?

Lawyers from the Criminal Law Service provide a range of legal services to people in prison. They regularly visit:

- Dame Phyllis Frost Centre
- Port Phillip Prison
- Metropolitan Reception Prison
- Melbourne Assessment Prison
- Melbourne Remand Centre.

Our lawyers also visit other prisons in Victoria and can telephone or video conference to prisons.

## How can I get help at court?

We have duty lawyers at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court. They give free legal advice to people on the day of their court hearing if they do not have a lawyer.

Duty lawyers may be able to:

- speak to the prosecutor for you
- speak for you in court
- adjourn your court case to another day.

**It is always better to see a lawyer before you go to court.**

## When can I get a lawyer to represent me?

Our lawyers can represent you if you are an adult charged with a crime in the Magistrates' Court, County and Supreme Courts.

We can also help you if you have a criminal trial in the County or Supreme Courts of Victoria.

We also run appeals in the County Court, the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Australia.

## How can I get a lawyer to represent me?

If you want a Criminal Law Service lawyer to help you in a court case, you need to get a grant of legal assistance from Victoria Legal Aid.

A grant of legal assistance is money used to pay a lawyer to help you with your legal problem. The grant money may cover some or all of your legal costs. Call us if you need help to apply for a grant.

## What can you expect from our lawyers?

Our experienced lawyers will:

- provide you with a high quality legal service
- always let you know what is happening with your case
- treat you with respect
- not give your personal information to anyone, unless the law says otherwise.