

Can I get an interpreter?

You can get an interpreter. It is free. When you call us, ask for an interpreter in the language you speak. If you have an appointment at a VLA 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

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

About VLA 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 give you advice, 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.

VLA 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 ask for an interpreter.

VLA regional 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

Morwell 5134 8055

Preston 9416 6444

Ringwood 9259 5444

Shepparton 5823 6200

Sunshine 9300 5333

All VLA offices are accessible to people with a disability.

VLA public law library

Open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

350 Queen Street, Melbourne

VLA website

www.legalaid.vic.gov.au



Youth Legal Service

Victoria Legal Aid



Lawyers And
Legal Services

YL5-CO-ENG-0408

What is Youth Legal Service?

Youth Legal Service helps children, young people and parents with their legal problems. It is part of Victoria Legal Aid (VLA).

Lawyers at our service work to:

- protect the legal rights of children and young people
- make sure children and young people get a fair go in court.

How can Youth Legal Service help me?

We will listen to your situation and give you legal advice about the best way to handle things. We can give you free advice:

- over the phone
- at an appointment
- if you are in detention.

If you have a hearing at the Children's Court you may also be able to see a lawyer for free advice on the day.

However, going to court can be a lot easier if you see a lawyer before you get to court. If you need more than advice, we can help you get money to pay for a lawyer.

When should I get legal advice?

Get urgent legal advice from a VLA lawyer who knows about the Children's Court:

- before doing a police interview (you have a legal right to speak to a lawyer before doing an interview)
- if social workers from Department of Human Services want you or a family member to leave your home or you are unhappy with what the department is doing.

Youth Legal Service Victoria Legal Aid

How do I get free phone advice?

To get advice from one of our lawyers call the Youth Legal Service from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday, on 9269 0407 or 1800 677 402 (country callers).

If VLA has already helped someone involved in your case, we may only be able to give you general information. However, we may be able to send you to another lawyer or organisation.

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

How do I get help in detention?

We give free advice and assistance to young people in detention. Our lawyers regularly visit:

- Melbourne Juvenile Justice Centre
- Parkville Youth Residential Centre
- secure welfare facilities.

How can I get free advice at the Children's Court?

We have lawyers on duty at the Children's Court. It is their job to give free legal advice to children and young people on the day of their court hearing.

When you get to court ask to see the duty lawyer before you go into the courtroom.

Unfortunately we cannot help everyone. Our lawyers will give priority to children and young people who have been:

- arrested and locked up by the police
- sent to court by the Department of Human Services.

How do I get money to pay for a lawyer?

To get money to pay for a lawyer you need to apply to VLA for a grant of legal assistance. The grant money may cover some or all of your legal costs.

Getting a grant will depend on your financial situation and your legal problem. You may get a lawyer from Youth Legal Service or a private law firm. Call us to find out how we can help you to apply for a grant of legal assistance.

How can a lawyer help me?

A lawyer's job is to help you present your case in the best way. A lawyer may also be able to:

- find out what is going to happen
- help you work out the best way to tell your story in court
- make sure that the court listens to your side of things
- work out the best way to handle your case
- go into the courtroom with you and speak for you.

Even though a lawyer will give you advice, it is up to you to decide what you want to do.