

Duty Lawyer Service

QCAT

What is the Duty Lawyer Service?

The Duty Lawyer Service offers free legal advice and one-off representation to people involved in matters being heard in the Brisbane Registry of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT), where that matter has been caused or aggravated by family violence.

How does the service operate?

Where a matter has been caused or aggravated by your experience of family violence, the Duty Lawyer Service can assist:

- *on the day* (drop-in) with tenancy and minor debt hearings, and child protection or blue card directions hearings on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings; OR
- *by arrangement* with other types of matters, compulsory conferences and hearings outside of drop-in times. Assistance outside of drop-in times is subject to the availability of a volunteer barrister or solicitor to assist.

How do I get assistance?

For assistance during drop-in times, you should attend the service on the day of your hearing. Ask the Court Network volunteers or QCAT security, if you have trouble finding the service. Make sure you bring your Tribunal documents with you on the day, so we can give you the best possible advice.

For assistance at other times, you should complete an application form (available at our office or at www.lawright.org.au). If required, our staff can help you to read, understand and complete the application form.

If you are receiving assistance from another community legal service (or another LawRight service) that is not able to represent you, you can ask them to refer you to the Duty Lawyer Service.



Who is eligible for assistance from the Duty Lawyer Service?

Parties who are experiencing a legal issue that was caused or aggravated by their experience of family violence are eligible for assistance.

However, we may refuse to assist if:

- your case is so complex that the service cannot effectively assist you in the time available;
- you do not comply with Tribunal orders or accept the service's advice;
- you can afford private legal assistance; or
- the service, or its volunteers, has a conflict of interest.

What assistance we can provide

With the assistance of volunteer lawyers and barristers, LawRight will:

- give you legal advice about your matter, Tribunal processes and

other options for the resolution of your dispute;

- assist in drafting Tribunal documents;
- negotiate with the other side to your matter;
- if QCAT grants leave, represent you at your appearance before the Tribunal.

What assistance we cannot provide

We cannot:

- take on ongoing carriage of your legal problem or proceeding;
- sign any documents on your behalf; or
- pay for any fees, disbursements or costs orders incurred by you.

The service is operated by LawRight, an independent, non-profit community based legal organisation that coordinates pro bono legal services for individuals and community groups.

The drop-in service is located in the same building as QCAT at:

Level 10, NAB Place
259 Queen Street, Brisbane City
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday,
from 9am to midday

For all other enquires:

Visit: Level 11, NAB Place
259 Queen Street, Brisbane City
Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5pm
E: dutyadmin@lawright.org.au
T: 07 3006 2324
F: 07 3846 6311
P: LawRight, PO Box 12217
GEORGE STREET QLD 4003

