



LawRight

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Self Representation Service

What is the Self Representation Service?

The Self Representation Service offers free legal advice and assistance to people at the Supreme and District Courts of Queensland and the Queensland Court of Appeal. 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.

- you do not comply with court orders or accept the Service's advice;
- you can afford private legal assistance, or if private legal assistance is available to you on a "no win no fee" or deferred fee basis;
- you are eligible for legal aid;
- the Service has a conflict of interest; or
- you are a declared vexatious litigant.

Who is eligible for assistance from the Self Representation Service?

Self-represented parties in the civil jurisdictions of the Supreme and District Courts of Queensland and the Queensland Court of Appeal are eligible for assistance. However, we may refuse to assist if:

- your case does not have a good chance of succeeding;
- your case is so urgent or complex, that the Service cannot effectively assist you in time;

What can we help with?

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

- give you legal advice to help you make informed decisions;
- assist in drafting documents, including pleadings, affidavits, court forms, submissions and correspondence;
- suggest other options for resolution of court proceedings;

- refer your case, if appropriate, for further advice, support or representation; and
- help you represent yourself in the best possible way.

What can't we help with?

We cannot:

- be responsible if a limitation period expires before you can be assisted;
- take carriage of your legal problem or court proceeding;
- represent you on the court record or at hearings or trials;
- sign any documents on your behalf;
- communicate with the court, other parties or legal representatives on your behalf;
- pay for any fees, disbursements or costs orders incurred by you; or
- assist with criminal, family, commercial or native title matters.

How does the Self Representation Service operate?

Once LawRight receives your application for assistance, your matter will be assessed for eligibility. If you are eligible for assistance, you will be contacted to arrange a consultation with a volunteer solicitor.

Further appointments can be made as necessary. If you live outside of Brisbane your appointment may be by telephone.

The Service is staffed by volunteers attending on a rostered basis, so you will be unlikely to see the same solicitor in later appointments.

The Service briefs its volunteers before appointments so that you do not need to retell your story every time you attend.

If you are not eligible for assistance from the Service, you will be notified of our reasons in writing.

The Service will not provide you with legal advice if you do not have a scheduled appointment. However, the Service may provide general information and help you to complete the LawRight application form on a drop-in basis.

How do I apply for assistance from the Self Representation Service?

If you would like assistance from the Service you should complete an application form (available at the registry, our office or on the LawRight website, www.lawright.org.au) and sign the terms and conditions. If required, our staff can help you to read, understand and complete these documents.