

Advice Before Court for criminal charges



**Free legal advice and information
to help you prepare for court.**



What is Advice Before Court?

Advice Before Court is a telephone legal advice and information service offered for criminal and traffic charges in the Magistrates Court.

How does it work?

- ▶ If your court date is more than six days away, you can request Advice Before Court using our online tool (scan the QR code) or by calling our Infoline on 1300 650 579.
- ▶ A paralegal will call you and ask you some questions about your legal problem to see how best we can help you.
- ▶ If you are eligible for Advice Before Court, the paralegal will make a phone appointment for you to speak to a lawyer before your court date.
- ▶ The paralegal will get copies of all the relevant documents so the lawyer has everything they need to give you legal advice. Depending on your situation, the lawyer may help you prepare for court and a duty lawyer may represent you in court.
- ▶ Even if we can't give you legal advice, the paralegal can still give you legal information and/or refer you to another legal service.

Benefits

The Advice Before Court service:

- ▶ Gives you more time with a lawyer away from the pressures of court.
- ▶ Helps reduce the number of times you need to go to court. This saves you time and helps makes the court and the duty lawyer service more efficient.
- ▶ Allows court based duty lawyers to focus on matters that can be finalised on the day as a lot of the preparation has already been done.
- ▶ Is a best practice COVID-19 safe model that enables paralegals and lawyers to safely and effectively assist you to prepare for court by telephone before your court appearance.