



LEGAL AID
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Consent Orders Kit



Disclaimer

This publication contains general information only and is intended as a general guide about the law.

You should not rely on this information as legal advice. We recommend that you talk to a lawyer about your situation if you need advice.

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1. Introduction

Purpose of this kit

You can use this kit to help you prepare and file a Form 11 Application for Consent Orders (“consent orders”) to obtain court orders after separation when you have reached agreement about parenting arrangements and/or property settlement.

You should get legal advice about your consent orders. It is important that you understand the meaning and consequences of the orders you are proposing. Even if you have decided to make your application without the help of a lawyer, you should obtain independent legal advice about the effect and consequences of the orders.

If at any time you:

- don't understand what information you need for your application, or
- can't get the information you need for your application, or
- don't understand the questions you are being asked

then you should seek advice from a lawyer experienced in family law.

What are consent orders?

If you have reached an agreement with the other party, you can apply for consent orders. Consent orders turn your agreement into a court order without you having to go through the court process. When consent orders are made, your agreement will have the same legal effect as a decision of the court.

The benefit of having consent orders is that you don't need the court to make decisions for you. This means you do not have to go through the court process and can resolve your dispute without expensive and lengthy court proceedings.

You can't use a consent orders application for the following matters:

- Step-parent maintenance or child support
- Declarations about the existence of a de facto relationship
- Orders approving medical procedures
- Orders under cross-vesting laws (concerning the transfer of related proceedings to another court to have all proceedings heard together)
- A parenting order in favour of a person who is not a parent, grandparent or other relative
- Parenting orders for a child born under a surrogacy arrangement.

If you are seeking court orders about any of the above matters you should seek legal advice from a family lawyer.

You cannot apply for consent orders if the same matter is already an active case with the court. If you have reached an agreement during the court process you can file a Minute of Consent Orders with the court. You should seek [legal advice](#) in relation to this (see page 20).

There are advantages to formalising your property and financial agreement with consent orders, including:

- Limited circumstances in which orders can be set aside
- Nominal stamp duty payable on property transferred under Family Court orders
- Capital Gains Tax rollover relief.

The [Australian Taxation Office](#) has more information on stamp duty and capital gains tax relief. It is recommended you seek financial advice prior to filing consent orders if you have any questions around tax implications.

2. Key concepts and definitions

Parenting orders versus property orders

Parenting orders

These include orders relating to:

- The person with whom a child lives – including any shared care arrangements.
- The time that a child may spend with a parent that they don't live with, or anyone else who plays an important part in their life, such as a grandparent, and can be face-to-face, or by phone, email or letters.
- Any other aspect of decision-making – this may include the long term as well as day-to-day care, welfare and development of a child, health, religion, education and sport.

Property and financial orders

These include orders relating to:

- Property – how your property, superannuation, financial resources and liabilities should be shared between you.
- Spousal maintenance – financial support for a husband, wife, former husband/wife or de facto partner.

Out of time

If more than 12 months has passed since your divorce, or more than 2 years since your de facto relationship ended, you are out of time to seek orders for property settlement. If this is the case, you will only be able to proceed with consent orders if both parties consent to the court making the proposed property and maintenance orders. You should seek legal advice if you are out of time.

Superannuation splitting

If you are filing consent orders relating to property settlement and wish to split superannuation it is highly recommended you seek independent family law advice.

There are special requirements when you make an application for orders for property settlement and seek orders about a superannuation interest, including giving the trustee of the superannuation fund notice of your intention to seek the proposed orders at least 28 days prior to filing. The trustee will respond to your letter stating whether they agree with the orders sought or whether they require any changes made.

See the Family Court of WA's [Superannuation splitting](#) and [Applying for consent orders](#) pages and Legal Aid WA's [Property settlement – Superannuation](#) page for more information.

Relevant legislation

The [Family Law Act 1975 \(Cth\)](#) (“FLA”) deals with proceedings where the parties are, or were, married to each other. The [Family Court Act 1997 \(WA\)](#) (“FCA”) deals with proceedings where the parties were in a de facto relationship. This Kit refers to both pieces of legislation with equivalent sections linked for ease of reference. Please refer to either the FLA or the FCA depending on whether you were married or in a de facto relationship.

If you are seeking **parenting orders**, you should read and consider Part VII of the FLA if the child’s parents were married to each other or Part 5 of the FCA if the child’s parents were in a de facto relationship.

If you are seeking **property orders**, you should read and consider section [79](#) FLA for married couples, or sections [205ZD](#) and [205ZG](#) FCA.

Parenting orders

- meaning of parenting order and related terms - [s64B](#) FLA and [s84](#) FCA
- objects of relevant part of the Act and principles underlying it – [s60B](#) FLA and [s66](#) FCA
- child’s best interests are the paramount consideration in making a parenting order – [s60CA](#) FLA and [s66A](#) FCA
- how a court determines what is in a child’s best interests – [s60CC](#) FLA and [s66C](#) FCA
- parental responsibility and decision-making– Part VII, Division 2 FLA and Part 5, Division 2 FCA

- interpretation of:
 - ‘Aboriginal child and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture’ – [s4\(1\)](#) FLA and [s5](#) FCA
 - ‘De facto relationship’ – [s4AA](#) FLA (no equivalent in FCA) and [s13A](#) of the *Interpretation Act 1984*
 - ‘Family violence’ – [s4AB](#) FLA and [s9A](#) FCA

Spousal maintenance

- right of spouse to maintenance – [s72](#) FLA and [s205ZC](#) FCA
- powers of court in maintenance proceedings – [s74](#) FLA and [s205ZCA](#) FCA
- matters to be taken into consideration in relation to maintenance – [s75](#) FLA and [s205ZD](#) FCA

Property settlement

- time restrictions on property and maintenance proceedings – [s44](#) FLA and [s205ZB](#) FCA
- declaration of interests in property – [s78](#) FLA and [s205ZA](#) FCA
- alteration of property interests – [s79](#) FLA and [s205ZG](#) FCA
- in respect of orders or injunctions binding third parties – Part VIII AA FLA and Part 5A, Division 2A FCA
- in respect of superannuation interests – Part VIII B FLA (de facto and married)

What the court will consider

The matters the court must consider when deciding an Application for Consent Orders are set out in the FLA or the FCA. The court must be satisfied that:

- For **parenting orders**, the arrangements are in the best interests of the child/ren. Even if you both agree to the orders sought, the court will not approve the consent orders unless it is satisfied that the orders are in the best interests of the child/ren.
- For **property orders**, the arrangements are just and equitable.

Who should be named as a party in the application?

A person against whom an order is sought or whose rights may be directly affected by an issue in the case must be included as a party to the application for consent orders.

In relation to **parenting** order applications the following people must be named as parties:

1. The parents.
2. Any other person who is included in a current parenting order in relation to the child.
3. Any other person that the child lives with and who is responsible for the care, welfare and development of the child.
4. If a child protection order is currently in place in relation to the child, the prescribed child welfare authority. If this applies to you, you should seek legal advice prior to filing any application.

In relation to **property** settlement applications the following people can be named as parties:

1. Both people of the marriage/de facto relationship that has broken down.
2. A third party such as a current spouse or a joint owner (who is not a party to the marriage or de facto relationship) of a property that is going to be dealt with under the proposed orders.
3. Affected third parties such as a bankruptcy trustee, a company, or the Australian Taxation Office.

If third parties are involved in your property settlement, you should seek legal advice prior to lodging your consent orders application.

Duty of disclosure

If you are seeking property settlement and/or spousal maintenance orders you must make full disclosure of your financial circumstances. You must read [Rule 199](#) of the *Family Court Rules 2021 (WA)* and [s71B](#) FLA (no equivalent yet in FCA). See Legal Aid WA's [Property settlement - Disclosure](#) page for more information.

Consequences of non-disclosure

A failure to give full and frank disclosure has serious consequences. These consequences may include:

- consent orders being set aside (cancelled)
- you having to pay the other party's legal costs
- you being fined
- you being charged with contempt of court, and being fined or imprisoned if found guilty.

3. Steps for completing a Form 11 Application for consent orders

This checklist is provided as a guide to completing the consent orders application correctly. It highlights questions on the form that people do not always answer correctly or fully.

Completing a draft Form 11 Application

- Download a Word version of the Form 11 Application from the Family Court of WA [website](#).
- Type a draft of your [Form 11 application](#) and [consent orders](#).
- At Part A, Item 3 on page 1 of the Form 11 Application, have you clearly stated your contact address (address for service) in Australia?
- At Part B on page 2 of the Form 11 Application, have you given details of your relationship? De facto parties seeking property orders will require an [affidavit](#) (see page 15).
- At Part C, Item 10 & 11 on pages 3 & 4 of the Form 11 Application, have you provided details of any ongoing court cases or existing orders concerning the applicant, respondent, or the children?

Where there is an existing order you can set out the details of that order, however best practice would be to attach a sealed copy of your existing orders. If the orders you seek are intended to vary or discharge (cancel) an existing order made in a court other than the court in which the Application for Consent Orders is to be filed, then [sealed](#) copies of the existing order must be filed (see page 18).

- At Part C, Item 14, 15 & 16 on page 5 of the Form 11 Application, if you have answered yes, have you attached the documents required?
- At Part C, Item 18 on page 5 of the Form 11 Application, have you attached a sealed copy of a 'proceeds of crime' order or a forfeiture application if one exists?
- Part D of the Form 11 Application - this part must be completed if there are children under the age of 18 years, regardless of whether the orders sought are in relation to children, property or maintenance.
- At Part F on pages 7-9 of the Form 11 Application, if you are seeking parenting orders, have you provided separate information for each child? Repeat page 9 if there are more than 4 children.
- At Part G on pages 10-18 of the Form 11 Application, if you are the applicant and you are seeking property or maintenance orders, have you completed column 1 and has the respondent completed column 2? Fill in ALL the boxes. If no value, write NIL or \$0.

- At Part G, Item 46 on page 14 of the Form 11 Application, if you are the applicant and you are seeking property or maintenance orders, have you provided your total net worth (not including superannuation) by subtracting your liabilities from the total value of property owned by you, and has the respondent done the same? Make sure your figures add up. The value of the asset pool in Part G should be the same as in Part H. If not, an explanation is required, in the form of a cover letter to the court.
- At Part G, Item 47 on page 14 of the Form 11 Application, if you are seeking property or maintenance orders and either party has acquired or disposed of any property since the date of separation, have the details been provided?
- At Part G, Items 48-53 on pages 15 & 16 of the Form 11 Application, if you are seeking a superannuation splitting order, have you given the details required and attached a completed superannuation information form or last two member statements? If you have more than one superannuation interest have you attached a list of all your superannuation interests and given the details required for each interest?
- If you are seeking superannuation splitting orders, have you given the trustee of the superannuation fund notice of your intention, by writing to them with the enclosed draft Minute of Consent Orders at least 28 days before you file them on the eCourts portal, as per [Rule 168](#) of the Family Court Rules 2021? Have you attached to the Form 11 the trustee's response to your letter? See [below](#) at page 20.
- At Part H on pages 19 & 20 of the Form 11 Application, if you are seeking property orders have you addressed each item and provided the net value of property that the applicant and the respondent will each receive? If you are seeking an order in relation to superannuation, have you provided the gross value of the superannuation that the applicant and the respondent will each receive and have you set out the taxation consequences of the orders sought?
- Have you answered every question that applies to you?

Completing a draft Minute of Consent Orders

A 'draft' Minute of Consent Orders is the orders you are asking the court to make, based on what you have sought in the Form 11 Application.

The orders you seek concerning your children, property or spousal maintenance will depend on the circumstances of your family. A copy of your draft Minute needs to accompany the Form 11 application.

You can use the [Minute of Consent Orders](#) template when drafting your consent orders. You don't have to use the template but it is helpful. If you don't use the template you should draft your Minute of Consent Orders in a Word document.

You will find example orders on the Family Court of WA website and the Attorney General's Department website:

- [Examples of parenting orders](#)
- [Examples of property orders](#)
- [A guide to dividing your property and finances after separation.](#)

Checklist for draft Minute of Consent Orders

- Set out each order sought in a separate paragraph and number each paragraph.
- Use headings and subheadings if the Minute is lengthy, for example, more than 3 pages.
- Make sure your orders are clear and don't lead to confusion.
- If seeking parenting orders, make sure the full names and dates of birth of the children are included and correct.

Finalising the draft Form 11 Application and Minute of Consent Orders

- De facto parties seeking property orders are required to file a [separate affidavit](#) (see page 15).
- As your Form 11 needs to be signed by all parties, the contents need to be agreed by the other party. Depending on your relationship with the other party you may wish to provide a copy of your draft by email to the other party so they can confirm the contents are correct or add in any missing information on their part.
- Remove or strike through parts of the Form 11 that don't relate to you i.e. if you are filing for property settlement only you can remove Part F of the Form 11. If you are filing for parenting orders only, then you can remove Part G of the Form 11.
- Get [legal advice](#) to check the Form 11 and Minute have been correctly drafted (see page 20). This is not essential but highly recommended.
- Once all parties agree with the contents of the Form 11 you need to print your Form 11 Application and Consent Orders.

Signing the Form 11 Application and Minute of Consent Orders

- Locate a [witness](#) to help you sign the Form 11 Application (see page 17). Remember your Form 11 Application can only be witnessed by a Justice of the Peace, notary public or lawyer.
- You do not need to attend with the other party to sign your application at the same time, however, you can if you wish.

- At Part E of the Form 11 Application, have you signed each page of the draft Consent Orders and dated the last page the same day you signed your Form 11 Application? See Parts I, K and M.
- At Part I & Part K on pages 21 & 22 of the Form 11 Application, have you marked every box that applies to you? Have you sworn/affirmed and signed your affidavit in the presence of a Justice of the Peace, notary public or lawyer?
- Once you have signed your Form 11 Application and Consent Orders you will need to provide the original signed documents to the other party for them to organise a witness to sign their side of the application.
- Check the bottom of each page of the Form 11 Application is signed by all parties, check that the Affidavits at Parts I, K or M of the Form 11 Application are signed.
- Check that both parties have signed each page of the Minute of Consent Orders.
- The date on the Minute of Consent Orders needs to be the same date that you sign your Form 11 Application.
- At Part J & Part L on pages 21 & 22 of your Form 11 Application, if you have sought independent legal advice about the orders has the lawyer completed and signed the statement of independent legal advice?

Filing the Form 11 Application for Consent Orders

- Register for an [eCourts Portal](#) online account. See the Family Court of WA's [Using eCourts Portal](#) page for more information about how you can register your account.
- Make sure the parties' details on your eCourts electronic file match the details in the Form 11.
- Scan a copy of your signed Form 11 Application and Minute of Consent Orders and save them both as separate PDF files.
- You will also need to scan and save copies of your [supporting documents](#) as separate PDF files (see page 14).
- File your application on the eCourts Portal using the following steps:
 - Login to your account
 - Click on the link to "Family Court of WA" under the assisted lodgement tab
 - Click parenting and/or financial (whichever relates to you) and click "yes" to the question "Are parties in agreement with the Orders sought?"

- Follow the prompts to the end, attaching documents where necessary, and click ‘Lodge’ as the last step
- You will need to pay the applicable [filing fee](#) at the time of filing your application, have your credit or debit card details ready.
- File the application within 90 days of the date of the first person signing the Form 11 application.** If you are having trouble lodging your Form 11 Application, see [below](#) at page 16 for more information.

After Filing your Form 11 Application for Consent Orders

- Wait for further communication from the Family Court – you will be notified by email of any activity on your matter.
- The Registrar will assess whether the proposed orders should be made, and if the Registrar is satisfied the orders should be made, the orders will be “sealed” (approved and made final) and available for you to download from the eCourts Portal.
- If the Registrar is not satisfied, a notice will be sent to both parties requesting additional information. This notice is called a “requisition”.
- If you receive a requisition from the court, you should answer it promptly (within 90 days) by way of letter – preferably all parties will sign this letter. If this is not possible then a copy of your response letter should be sent to other party. Make sure you add “cc: [other party’s name and email]” to the bottom of the letter. If you do not respond to the court your application will be dismissed.
- Many requisitions as to property settlement relate to information as to why the orders sought are just and equitable, **the court is not just a “rubber stamp” for an agreement.**

Documents you will need

The supporting documents depend on whether you are proposing parenting orders or property and financial orders, and whether the parties were married to each other.

Supporting documents - parenting consent orders

If you are applying for parenting orders, you need to file the following supporting documents:

- copies of the children's birth certificates
- copies of any existing child related court orders.

Supporting documents - property and financial consent orders

If the application is concerning property and financial issues, file:

- copies of any existing property or financial court orders

- copies of certificates of title of any real estate to be transferred (which confirm the property to be transferred is registered in the name of a party/the parties)
- copies of any binding financial agreements the parties have entered into
- if superannuation splitting is proposed – include copies of the last 2 member statements for the fund being split and a letter from the superannuation fund trustee confirming they have no objection to the split. See the Family Court of WA's [Superannuation Splitting](#) page for more information.

Supporting documents - de facto parties (property or financial orders only)

If you were in a de facto relationship, you must file an additional [affidavit](#) in support of the application. The affidavit needs to provide evidence establishing your de facto relationship. The Family Court of WA's [Affidavit supporting the application](#) page states you should include the following information:

- **Residence:** Either you or the other party are residing in Western Australia on the day you make the application.
- **Length of relationship:** You need to establish one of these three situations:
 - that you lived in a de facto relationship with the other party for at least 2 years, or
 - that you lived in a de facto relationship for less than 2 years but:
 - there is a child of the relationship under the age of 18 years and failure to make orders would result in serious injustice to the party who is caring or responsible for the child; or
 - the party applying for the order has made substantial financial, non-financial or homemaker/parent contributions and failing to make orders would result in serious injustice.
- **Connection to Western Australia:** You must also establish at least one of the following 2 things:
 - that both you and the other party resided in Western Australia for at least one third of your de facto relationship; or
 - that substantial financial, non-financial or homemaker/parent contributions have been made by you or the other party while residing in Western Australia.
- **If either party has a spouse:** the affidavit must also advise whether you or the other party has a spouse. If either party has a spouse, the affidavit should state that a copy of your application will be served on that spouse and they have no objection to the orders.

Supporting documents – married parties

If you were married:

- A copy of your marriage certificate and/or a copy of your divorce order (if relevant).
- If you don't have a copy of your marriage certificate you need to [obtain a copy](#) from whichever state or country in which you were married.
- If you cannot obtain a copy of your marriage certificate, you will need to file an affidavit instead. The affidavit will need to cover information about when and where you married, why you don't have a copy of your marriage certificate and why you cannot obtain one.
- If your marriage certificate is not in English, you are required to provide an [Affidavit of Translation of the Marriage Certificate](#) sworn or affirmed by a translator.

Fees

There is a [fee](#) associated with filing a consent orders application, to be paid online when submitting your application. It is common for the person lodging the application to pay the fee or the parties can discuss sharing the fee by reimbursing the person who pays.

You can qualify for a fee exemption if you can show the court you meet the [criteria](#).

Help with lodging your application

The self-serve kiosk is available at the Family Court of WA for you to prepare, scan and upload your court documents through the [eCourts Portal](#). Access to the public kiosk computers is available each weekday.

In the kiosk, you can:

- register on the eCourts Portal of Western Australia
- prepare documents
- scan and upload documents to the portal
- have documents witnessed by a Justice of the Peace
- be referred to the Legal Aid duty lawyer.

You are responsible for making sure all your paperwork is in order. Family Court staff can help you with filing your documents on eCourts and information about the processing of your application but **they cannot give you legal advice.**

Community Resource Centres

The Western Australian Community Resource Network (WACRN) comprises over 100 rural, remote and regional Community Resource Centres (CRCs). The centres are not-for-profit organisations that are independently owned and operated by their local community.

CRCs can provide access to computers, photocopiers, printers, video conferencing and the internet.

You may be able to visit a CRC near you for preparing and filing your application if you don't have access to facilities.

Please go to the [CRC website](#) for more information.

Signing and witnessing

Who can witness your signature

You must sign your consent orders application in front of a Justice of the Peace, notary public or lawyer.

There is a Justice of the Peace in Perth city at:

- The Family Court of WA registry, 150 Terrace Road, Perth, Monday-Friday 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.
- Citizen's Advice Bureau Perth Office, 25 Barrack Street, Perth, Monday-Friday 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.
- City of Perth Library, 573 Hay Street, Perth, Sunday 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm.
- Perth State Library, Perth Cultural Centre, 25 Francis Street, Perth, Monday 11.00 am to 2.00 pm

The Department of Justice has a list of [Document Witnessing Centres](#) where you can find a Justice of the Peace in your local area.

Remember to take photo ID such as driver's license or passport so your identity can be confirmed.

4. After lodging

Receiving sealed orders

You will receive an email notification advising that the registrar has made your orders. Applications typically take 2-6 weeks to be processed. Orders are “sealed” when they are watermarked with the court’s red stamp. Once you have a copy of your sealed orders you should proceed with carrying out any obligations contained in your orders.

If your orders relate to property settlement and you are refinancing a mortgage and/or transferring a property title you will need to provide a copy of the court orders to your bank, mortgage broker, settlement or conveyancing agent and Landgate.

If your orders relate to superannuation splitting, you will need to provide a copy of the sealed orders to the superannuation fund trustee. The superannuation fund’s response letter that you received prior to filing your consent orders application should have instructions on what you need to do once the orders have been made.

5. Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take to be processed?

If there are no problems with your application, you can expect to receive your sealed orders about 2-6 weeks after you have filed your consent orders application.

What if the court does not approve our consent orders?

The court will not approve consent orders if they are:

- Not in the best interests of the children, in parenting matters.
- Not just and equitable, in property matters. Many requisitions about property settlement relate to insufficient information as to why the orders sought are just and equitable. The court carefully evaluates each application and is not just “rubber stamping” an agreement.

The court may request clarification, suggest changes in the form of a requisition, or reject the application.

If you receive a requisition from the court, you should answer it promptly (within 90 days) by way of letter uploaded to the eCourts portal. Send a copy of the letter to the other party and add “cc: [other party’s name and email]” at the bottom of the letter. If you do not respond your application will be dismissed.

Do we need to get legal advice before filing?

Getting legal advice is not mandatory, but is strongly recommended, especially for property orders. You can get free or subsidised [legal advice](#) from community legal centres or Legal Aid WA (see page 20).

Can I file a consent orders application after a divorce?

Yes. For property orders, you must file within 12 months of a divorce or 2 years of separation for de facto relationships, unless you get special leave from the court.

Do I have to attend court?

No, you don't have to attend any court hearings unless the court specifically requests you to; this is rare.

Can I change my orders later?

If you change your mind after filing the orders but prior to them being made by the court, you can send an urgent letter to the court withdrawing your consent and giving reasons why. You should copy the letter to the other party. You should get legal advice about this.

Once your **property orders** have been made final the intention is that your orders will finally determine the financial relationship between the parties and neither party will have the option of further proceedings. It is possible to make an Application in the Family Court to set aside your final orders, however this is not an easy application and there are very limited circumstances in which final orders can be set aside by the court. If you are wanting to change final property settlement orders you should seek legal advice.

Parenting orders can be amended in some circumstances. To seek a change to existing parenting orders, you will need to show that there has been a significant change of circumstances that makes a change necessary and the change in orders is in the best interests of the children. See Legal Aid WA's [Changing final Family Court orders](#) page.

6. Templates and sample documents

Sample consent orders for parenting and property

The Family Court of WA and the Attorney General's Department have published the following useful sample orders and guides.

- [Sample parenting orders](#)
- [Sample property orders](#)
- [A guide to dividing your property and finances after separation.](#)

Sample letter to the trustee of a superannuation fund

If you are seeking superannuation splitting orders, you need to give the trustee of the superannuation fund notice of your intention, by writing to them with the enclosed draft Minute of Consent Orders at least 28 days before you file them on the eCourts portal, as per [Rule 168](#) of the *Family Court Rules 2021*. The trustee will respond to your letter stating whether they agree with the orders sought or whether they require any changes made or whether they object. The trustee's response must be attached to the Form 11 Application for consent orders.

See the Family Court of WA's [sample letter](#) to the trustee of a superannuation fund, at the bottom of the page.

7. Getting help

Where to get legal advice

Legal Aid WA can give legal advice and assistance in relation to parenting matters and non-complex property settlement. Note: in most circumstances Legal Aid WA does not *assist with preparation* of documents relating to property settlement– only legal advice can be provided.

Phone the Infoline on **1300 650 579** for free information about the law, to ask about our services and to find out how we can help you.

First Nations callers can phone Legal Yarn on **1800 319 803** to access a culturally safe telephone information service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People; staffed by mob, for mob.

The Infoline and Legal Yarn are open Monday - Friday from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm (Western Standard Time), except on public holidays.

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, calls to the Infoline and Legal Yarn can be made using the [National Relay Service](#).


Alternatively, you can visit one of Legal Aid WA's [office locations](#).

We have a duty lawyer service at the Family Court of WA. The service is for people with urgent family law matters or who have a court date that day. The service is mainly for parenting matters. Whether the service can help you will depend on your situation, the urgency and seriousness of your matter, and the needs of other people using the service on the day. This is a free drop-in service (no appointment required).


The service is available at the Family Court at Perth, Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 4.00pm, and in regions when the Family Court is on circuit in Broome, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Bunbury and Albany.

See more at Legal Aid WA's [Get Legal Help](#) page.

LEGAL AID WA CONTACTS

 **Infoline:** 1300 650 579

Interpreting and relay services to help you contact us:

 **Legal Yarn:** 1800 319 803 (for First Nations callers)

 **Translating & Interpreting Service:** 131 450

 **Website/InfoChat:** www.legalaid.wa.gov.au

 **National Relay Service:** 133 677

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