

What is the Legal Aid Bail Support Service?

The Legal Aid Bail Support Service is made up of 3 paralegals and 3 social support workers including a senior social worker. The Legal Aid Bail Support Service is part of the Criminal Law Division at Legal Aid.

The role of the Bail Support Service is to help people who are remanded in custody to develop a plan to make them better candidates for bail.

Once on bail, the Bail Support Service aims to provide practical assistance to help people comply with their bail conditions.

Who can make referrals to the Bail Support Service?

You can be referred to the Bail Support Service by your lawyer, a Magistrate or a Judge. You can also contact the Bail Support Service directly by calling 9261 6818.

CONTACT DETAILS

9261 6818

bailsupportservice@legalaid.wa.gov.au

www.legalaid.wa.gov.au



Who is eligible for the Bail Support Service?

To be eligible for the Bail Support Service, you must:

1. have criminal matters in the **Perth Magistrates Court** or the **Perth District Court**; and
2. be a potential candidate for bail or be on bail.

There are lots of reasons people can't get bail. The Bail Support Service can assist people who could be eligible for bail if they had access to the right support in the community.

You do not need to be a client of Legal Aid or be represented under a grant of legal aid in order to be eligible.

The Bail Support Service provides support to put in place conditions that will make you a better candidate for bail.

What assistance does the Bail Support Service offer?

Services provided by the Bail Support Service are flexible depending on your needs. They can include:

- reminding you about court appearances by text or phone;
- help accessing health or mental health services;
- helping you find accommodation; and
- support, encouragement and advocacy.

The Bail Support Service does not provide legal advice or any other legal services.

If you reach sentencing, the Bail Support Service can provide you with a support letter summarising your engagement with the Service, and this can be considered by the Court.

Once you are on bail, the Bail Support Service provides support to help you comply with bail conditions.

What happens once you are referred to the Bail Support Service?

Once you have been referred to the Bail Support Service, a Bail Support Worker will meet with you to discuss your needs. If you are represented by a lawyer, the Bail Support Worker will talk to your lawyer about your needs and any potential barriers to bail.

The Bail Support Worker will ask you to sign a form consenting to engage with the Bail Support Service. The Bail Support Service is strictly voluntary. Compliance with the Bail Support Service should not be made a condition of your bail.

If you are suitable for ongoing support, the Bail Support Worker will develop a Bail Support Plan for you. This Plan will be provided to your lawyer or directly to the Court.

If you are successful in getting bail, you will be provided with assistance as per the Bail Support Plan. The Plan will be reviewed if your circumstances change.

Where can I find out more about the Bail Support Service or Legal Aid WA's services generally?

You can find out more about the Bail Support Service and Legal Aid WA's services generally by:

- Calling the Legal Aid WA infoline on 1300 650 579 (freecall from prison).
- Visiting us at 32 St Georges Terrace, Perth: or
- Heading to our website at www.legalaid.wa.gov.au

