



# BAIL SUPPORT SERVICE

This fact sheet has information about the Bail Support Service provided by the Criminal Law Division at Legal Aid WA.

## What is the Bail Support Service?

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

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

Once on bail, the 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 service yourself to ask for assistance.

Referrals are made by emailing [bailsupportservice@legalaid.wa.gov.au](mailto:bailsupportservice@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 don't get bail. The Bail Support Service can only assist people who would 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 WA or be represented under a grant of legal aid in order to be eligible.

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**The Bail Support Service provides non legal support to put in place conditions that will make you a more appropriate candidate for bail.**

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## 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 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 described in the Bail Support Plan. The Plan will be reviewed if your circumstances change

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## Once you are on bail, the Bail Support Service provides holistic supports to help you comply with bail conditions

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## 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;
- arranging transport for you, for example to court or home from prison;
- helping you find accommodation; and
- connecting you with a range of community and government organisations.

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.



### 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;
- Visiting us at 32 St Georges Terrace, Perth; or
- Heading to our website at [www.legalaid.wa.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au).

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