



Duty Lawyer Service

This fact sheet has information on Legal Aid WA's Duty Lawyer Service.

What is Legal Aid WA's Duty Lawyer Service?

Legal Aid WA provides a Duty Lawyer Service in many courts across Western Australia.

It is just one of the ways we help with criminal charges, family law matters, restraining orders, and protection and care cases.

What is a Duty Lawyer?

A Duty Lawyer is a lawyer who gives people legal help on the day they go to court. Some things the Duty Lawyer can do are:

- » give you legal advice,
- » refer you to other services,
- » help you with court documents and negotiations, and
- » speak for you in court.

Can the Duty Lawyer help with every legal problem?

The Duty Lawyer is not able to help with every legal problem and cannot represent you at trial. They can also only help you on the day you go to court.

The things the Duty Lawyer can do for you will depend on:

- » why you are at court,
- » how much time the Duty Lawyer has, and
- » what other services there are to help you.



A Duty Lawyer is a lawyer who gives people legal help on the day they go to court.



What are some tips for seeing the Duty Lawyer?

The Duty Lawyer may have many people to help on the day, so it is important that you:

- » Be on time – arrive at court early and put your name on the list to speak with the Duty Lawyer.
- » Be prepared – bring your court paperwork with you.
- » Be patient – you might have to wait before you can talk to them and you might have to wait again before you go into the courtroom.

If you have to come back to court on another day, you will probably talk to a different Duty Lawyer. Don't worry, we will have the lawyer's notes about your case from the last time you came to court.

Where can you get more information?

For more information on the Duty Lawyer Service, search 'Get Legal Help' on our website, or call the Legal Aid WA Infoline or your nearest Legal Aid WA office.

This fact sheet contains information only. It is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should speak to a lawyer. Legal Aid WA aims to provide accurate information but does not accept responsibility if it is not.

You are welcome to copy, use and share the information from our website, including our resources and publications, if you are doing so for non-commercial or non-profit purposes. You must make it clear the content was created by Legal Aid WA.