



Criminal Records

This fact sheet has information on what a criminal record is, what goes on your criminal record, when you would need to know about your criminal record, and how you can get a copy of your criminal record.

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What is a Criminal Record?

A criminal record is a formal record kept by the police that lists all of the offences you have been convicted of by a court.

What goes on your criminal record?

Criminal offences and traffic offences go on your criminal record when you are convicted of them in court. This can happen when you:

- » say you are guilty in court, or
- » are found guilty after a trial in court, or
- » send in a written plea of guilty to the court, or
- » do not attend court and are found guilty in your absence.

If an offence is dealt with by an infringement notice without going to court, then it will not go on your criminal record.

When would you need to know about your criminal record?

You might need to know about your criminal record when you apply for:

- » a job,
- » a security licence,
- » a working with children check,
- » an overseas visa, or
- » Australian citizenship or residency.

You might also need to know about it if you go to court for a criminal offence, or for a family violence or family law case.

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.

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How do you get a copy of your criminal record?

If you need to know about your criminal record because you are going to court, you can get a copy of it from your local police station.

You will need to show the police photo ID. This record will only show offences you committed in Western Australia.

If you have been asked to provide a copy of your record because you are applying for a job, you will need a National Police Certificate.

This will show offences you have committed anywhere in Australia. You can apply for a National Police Certificate on the WA Police website or at an Australia Post Office.

If you are overseas or need a copy of your criminal record to apply for a visa, citizenship or residency, you will need a National Police Check.

You can apply for this on the Australian Federal Police website.

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You can find more information on criminal records and spent convictions on the Legal Aid WA website.”

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How can Legal Aid WA help?

You can find more information on criminal records and spent convictions on the Legal Aid WA Website.

You can also telephone our Infoline on 1300 650 579 (General Enquiries)

Infoline open Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

(Australian Western Standard Time) except public holidays.