



Living arrangements for older people

This fact sheet has information for older Western Australians about living arrangements, why it is important to get advice before you decide what your living arrangements will be and about how Legal Aid WA can help.

What accommodation options are there for older people?

Where you live and who you live with often changes as you get older.

There are many accommodation options for older people and you have the right to choose where you want to live.

Some options are:

- » staying in your own home,
- » downsizing to a smaller home,
- » moving to a retirement village,
- » moving into a granny flat with your family, or
- » moving into a residential aged care facility.

Why is it important to think about your living arrangements?

Living arrangements often work out well.

However, problems can come up and things can work out differently from what you expected.

They can even turn out very badly if you don't anticipate some of the things that can go wrong and if you don't know your rights.

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What can happen if you do not protect your interests?

Some of the things that can happen if you do not protect your interests include:

- » losing money,
- » losing your home,
- » losing Centrelink pensions,
- » having to pay higher co-contributions for care or being unable to pay for aged care in the future, and
- » being vulnerable to homelessness.

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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What should you do before you decide what your living arrangements will be?

It is very important that you get legal advice before you decide what your living arrangements will be.

It is also a good idea to put things in writing.

What about if you are making living arrangements with family?

It is very important that you get legal advice before you decide what your living arrangements will be, even when making arrangements with family.

You should also put things in writing.

Wanting a formal arrangement with your family doesn't mean you don't trust your family.

It just means that it will help you and your family be clear about your intentions and expectations.

It also helps protect any Centrelink pensions you might be entitled to.



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Lawyers with specialist experience in the laws that affect older Western Australians provide advice at Elder Rights WA.

How can Legal Aid WA help?

Legal Aid WA can give legal advice to older Western Australians about living arrangements through Elder Rights WA.

Elder Rights WA operates from the Perth office at Legal Aid WA.

Lawyers with specialist experience in the laws that affect older Western Australians provide legal advice at Elder Rights WA.

Advice can be provided by phone, face to face and through community outreach.

There is no cost in receiving advice from a lawyer at the Elder Rights WA.

You can access Elder Rights WA by calling Legal Aid WA's Infoline on 1300 650 579.

You can also email: ElderRightsWA@legalaid.wa.gov.au.

To find out more about Elder Rights WA you can visit the Legal Aid WA website: www.legalaid.wa.gov.au.