

## Legal information for young people and youth workers in NSW

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### 1 General legal information

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**LawAccess NSW** is a free information service run by Legal Aid NSW, providing legal information and referrals for people in NSW. This includes a web chat service:

<https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/>

The **Legal Aid NSW** website has information about legal topics and how to take steps to resolve your problem yourself. The “My problem is about” section covers most areas of the law:

<https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/my-problem-is-about>

**Legal Aid NSW** also has pamphlets and fact sheets which you can view online or order for free at

<https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources>

**The Law Handbook** (Thomson Reuters, 15th edition, 2020) is a comprehensive guide to the law in New South Wales. All chapters are available online at <https://legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/law-handbook-your-practical-guide-law-nsw>

The **Find Legal Answers** service is managed by the State Library of NSW. It provides quality, plain English legal information for the people of NSW through NSW public libraries and online. All libraries hold the Find Legal Answers Tool Kit, a collection of plain language books to answer everyday questions about the law. Most of these books are also available online at

<https://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au>

The NSW government’s **Justice** website contains links to NSW courts, tribunals and criminal justice agencies: <https://courts.nsw.gov.au/>

**The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre** has a range of legal fact sheets for young people and youth workers at <https://www.theshopfront.org/legal-information-for-youth-workers>

**Youth Law Australia** is an Australia-wide legal information site for young people under 25. It provides answers to common legal questions for young people in all states and territories of Australia: [www.yla.org.au/](http://www.yla.org.au/)

**Youth Action** is the peak body for youth organisations in NSW. Their website contains useful information about legal and policy issues, including some fact sheets for youth workers:

[www.youthaction.org.au](http://www.youthaction.org.au)

### 2 Criminal law and police powers

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**Legal Aid NSW** has information on a range of criminal law topics at

<https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/my-problem-is-about/a-criminal-charge>

**Get Street Smart: Under 18? Know your Legal Rights** is a wallet-size guide produced by Legal Aid NSW, explaining young people’s rights on the street and with the police:

<https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources/get-street-smart-under-18s-know-your-legal-rights>

**Get Court Smart** is a wallet-size guide produced by Legal Aid NSW, explaining how the Children's Court works, what to expect and tips on how to prepare for court:

<https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources/get-court-smart>

**The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre** has fact sheets on criminal law and police powers, at

<https://www.theshopfront.org/legal-information-for-youth-workers>

**Burn** is a short film and website which is part of a crime prevention initiative of Legal Aid NSW. The film tells the story of a 16-year-old whose car trip with a group of older boys escalates into a serious act of violence. It demonstrates how dangerous group behaviour can quickly get out of control. The website also contains fact sheets on legal topics such as group offending, robbery, assault, Legal Aid and police interviews: <http://burn-movie.com.au/>.

**Defend Yourself** (T Anderson, Federation Press, 3rd edition, 2014) provides information about criminal court procedure, trials and sentencing, particularly for those who are representing themselves. It is now a few years old but still provides a good overview of the process. Chapters are available online at [http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/defend\\_yourself/index.html](http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/defend_yourself/index.html)

### 3 Victims of crime

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**Victims Services** provides information about victims' rights and services in NSW:

<https://www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au/>

The **NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions** website contains information about the ODPP including their prosecution policy and guidelines, and witness assistance service, at

[www.odpp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.odpp.nsw.gov.au)

**Warringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre** has fact sheets on issues such as sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse at <https://www.wiringabaiya.org.au/fact-sheets>

**Women's Legal Service (WLS)** has a guide to *Women and Sexual Violence Law* at

<https://www.wlsnsw.org.au/resources/women-and-sexual-violence-law/>

### 4 Domestic violence and AVOs

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**Legal Aid NSW** has practical information and fact sheets for people experiencing domestic violence, and also for people who have been charged with domestic violence offences or have AVOs taken out against them: <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/my-problem-is-about/apprehended-violence-order-avo>

**Inner City Legal Centre** has fact sheets about domestic and family violence in LGBTQI relationships at <https://www.iclc.org.au/fact-sheets/>

### 5 Fines

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**Fined Out** (5th edition, March 2021) is a comprehensive guide to the fine enforcement process in NSW, produced by Legal Aid, Inner City Legal Centre and Redfern Legal Centre:

<https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources/fined-out>

**Legal Aid NSW** provides information about Work and Development Orders (WDO) for people who are unable to pay fines at <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources/cant-pay-your-fines>

The **Revenue NSW** website provides information about how to deal with outstanding fines at <https://www.revenue.nsw.gov.au/help-centre/online-services/sections/fines>

## 6 Driving

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**Transport for NSW** (formerly Roads and Maritime Services) provides information about driver licensing, traffic laws, demerit points, etc. <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/>

Licensing: <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/roads/licence/index.html>

Registration: <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/roads/vehicle-registration/index.html>

Road Rules: <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/roads/using-roads/index.html>

**The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre** has some traffic fact sheets at <https://www.theshopfront.org/legal-information-for-youth-workers>.

**Legal Aid NSW** has information on traffic offences, licensing issues and motor accidents at <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/my-problem-is-about/my-car-or-a-driving-offence>.

**Legal Aid NSW** also has “guided pathways” to help you navigate through legal problems with fines and traffic law: <https://traffic.guidedpathways.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/>

## 7 Partying

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The **Inner City Legal Centre** website provides information about your rights and partying at <https://www.iclc.org.au/party-rights/>

**Inner City Legal Centre** also hosts the **Fair Play** site, with information on rights for people attending Mardi Gras and other LGBTIQI+ events. <http://www.fair-play.org.au/>

The **NSW Police** website provides information to help young people minimise the risks of having a party, to avoid getting in trouble with the police, at [https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/online\\_services/party\\_safety/safe\\_party\\_tips](https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/online_services/party_safety/safe_party_tips)

## 8 Protesting

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**CounterAct** provides a guide for activists in NSW on the right to protest, including protestors’ rights when dealing with police: <https://counteract.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NSW-Your-Right-to-Protest-booklet-Dec-2020.pdf>

**Redfern Legal Centre** has a pre-recorded webinar (recorded in December 2020) on police powers and protesting: <https://rlc.org.au/resources/legal-self-help/police-powers-protests-what-are-your-legal-rights-webinar>

**Legal Observers NSW** also have some fact sheets at <https://legalobserversnsw.org/resources/>

## 9 Family law and child protection

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The **Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia** website has fact sheets about parenting, separation and children at <https://www.fccoa.gov.au/fl>

The **Family Relationships Online** website contains information and fact sheets, including information for children, at <https://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/documents>.

The **NSW Children’s Court** website provides some information about the court’s care and protection jurisdiction at <https://www.childrenscourt.nsw.gov.au/>

**Legal Aid NSW** provides information on family law, child protection, and adoption at <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/my-problem-is-about/my-family-or-relationship>

**Women's Legal Service (WLS)** has a guide to women and family law in New South Wales, covering a range of topics such as divorce, children, property settlements and AVOs:

<https://www.wlsnsw.org.au/resources/women-and-family-law/>

**Women's Legal Service (WLS)** also provides information for parents whose children have been removed: <https://www.wlsnsw.org.au/help-facs-has-removed-my-children/>

The **NSW Department of Communities and Justice** website provides information for people working with children and young people, including guidelines for reporting children and young people at risk, at <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/Protecting-kids>

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## 10 Civil law issues for young people

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**Legal Aid NSW** provides *What are my legal rights? A handbook for young people*. It covers common day-to-day (civil law) problems and talks about your rights when dealing with other people or organisations and what you can do to resolve issues like unpaid fines, problems with your landlord, debts and more: <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources/What-are-my-legal-rights>

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## 11 Mental health and cognitive impairment

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The **Mental Health Rights Manual**, published by the Mental Health Coordinating Council, is a guide to the legal and human rights of people with mental illness in NSW, including what happens when someone is admitted to hospital as an involuntary patient: <http://mhrm.mhcc.org.au/home/>

**Legal Aid NSW** provides information about mental health law at <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/my-problem-is-about/mental-health>

The **Intellectual Disability Rights Service** provides some fact sheets about legal issues affecting people with intellectual disabilities at <https://idrs.org.au/resources/fact-sheets/>

The **Guardianship Division of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT)** has fact sheets about legal issues affecting people who may be incapable of managing their own affairs: <https://ncat.nsw.gov.au/ncat/publications-and-resources/fact-sheets/guardianship-division-fact-sheets.html>

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## 12 Housing

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The **Tenants' Union of NSW** has fact sheets on the rights and responsibilities of tenants in NSW. <https://www.tenants.org.au/publications>

**Legal Aid NSW** provides information for private and social housing tenants, people experiencing homelessness or at risk of being homeless, and homeowners with a mortgage at <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/my-problem-is-about/my-housing>

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## 13 Consumer issues and debts

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The **Financial Rights Legal Centre** provides a range of helpful fact sheets about debts, loans, insurance and financial services at <https://financialrights.org.au/> Their website also provides useful links to further resources: <https://financialrights.org.au/getting-help/more-help/>

**Redfern Legal Centre** provides fact sheets about money problems and consumer complaints at <https://rlc.org.au/i-need-legal-help/self-help-information/money-problems-fines-and-consumer-complaints>

**Legal Aid NSW** has information on dealing with debts and disputes about money at <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/my-problem-is-about/my-money>

**Fair Trading NSW** provides information for consumers at <http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/>

## 14 Social security

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The **Welfare Rights Centre** has a range of fact sheets to assist people with Centrelink issues: <https://welfarecentre.org.au/information-hub/>. On the same website you can access fact sheets from **Economic Justice Australia (EJA)**.

## 15 Employment

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**Legal Aid NSW** provides information about a person's rights, entitlements and responsibilities at work: <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/my-problem-is-about/my-job>

**Legal Aid NSW** has also published *Ripped off*, a guide for young workers about unpaid wages and entitlements at work: <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources/ripped-off>

**Fair Work Australia** provides information about employee entitlements, bullying and harassment, as well as industrial action and union membership at <http://www.fairwork.gov.au/employee-entitlements>

## 16 Discrimination

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**Legal Aid NSW** provides information about unlawful discrimination and what you can do if you experience it: <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/my-problem-is-about/discrimination>

**Legal Aid NSW** has also published the **Discrimination Toolkit**: <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources/discrimination-toolkit>

**Inner City Legal Centre** has a fact sheet on discrimination law at <https://www.iclc.org.au/fact-sheets/>

**Justice Connect** has a factsheet on dealing with gender discrimination for young people and their families at <https://justiceconnect.org.au/resources/how-to-deal-with-gender-discrimination-and-transphobia-nsw/>

The **Australian Centre for Disability Law** provides a guide on using disability discrimination law in NSW: <https://disabilitylaw.org.au/resources/legal/>

The **Australian Human Rights Commission** provides reports and publications on various areas of discrimination:

Sex discrimination: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/sex-discrimination>

Racial discrimination: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/employers/racial-discrimination>

Disability rights: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights>

First Nations: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice>

**Anti-Discrimination New South Wales** provides information on all the categories of discrimination covered under the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act. As well as providing an overview of the law, the website provides information on how to resolve discrimination and make a complaint:  
<https://antidiscrimination.nsw.gov.au/anti-discrimination-nsw/discrimination.html>

## 17 Complaints against government agencies

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**Legal Aid NSW** has information about government agencies and complaints at  
<https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/complaints-about-a-business-service-or-agency/government-agencies>

The **NSW Ombudsman** website has information about your rights and the process of making a complaint about government agencies in NSW: <https://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/Making-a-complaint>

Complaints against NSW Police are now dealt with by the **Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC)**: <https://www.lecc.nsw.gov.au/>

**Redfern Legal Centre** provides some guidelines about making police complaints at  
<https://rlc.org.au/our-services/police-complaints/making-police-complaints>

The **Health Care Complaints Commission** deals with complaints against health services in NSW:  
<https://www.hccc.nsw.gov.au/>

### **The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre Updated November 2023**

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