

Legal information for young people and youth workers in NSW

1 General legal information

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>

Legal Aid NSW also hosts a *Law for community workers* podcast series at

<https://lawforcommunityworkers.podbean.com/> and webinars on their YouTube channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/@LegalAidNSW>

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/>

2 Legal information for young people

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 has an Australia-wide legal information site for young people under 25. It provides answers to common legal questions in all states and territories: 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

Legal Aid NSW provides *What are my legal rights? A handbook for young people*. It covers common day-to-day (civil law) problems 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>

3 Criminal law and police powers

Legal Aid NSW has information on a range of criminal law issues 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 <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources/burn-a-short-film-and-study-guide>

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 <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/find-legal-answers/books-online/defend-yourself-facing-charge-court>

4 Victims of crime

Victims Services provides information about victims' rights and services in NSW, including the phone numbers of various help lines: <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

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

Women's Legal Service NSW has a guide to *Women and Sexual Violence Law* at <https://www.wlsnsw.org.au/resources/women-and-sexual-violence-law/>

5 Domestic violence and AVOs

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 LGBTIQ relationships at <https://www.iclc.org.au/fact-sheets/>

Warringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre has a fact sheet on issues domestic violence and AVOs at <https://www.wirringabaiya.org.au/fact-sheets>

Ask LOIS is a secure website hosted by **Women's Legal Service NSW**, providing a free legal online information service for community workers across NSW who are working with women who are experiencing or escaping domestic violence: <https://www.wlsnsw.org.au/training/ask-lois-website/>

6 Fines

Finéd Out 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/finéd-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>

7 Driving

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/>

8 Protesting

For a brief summary on the right to protest and access to legal help, see the **NSW Council for Civil Liberties Right to Protest** page at https://www.nswccl.org.au/right_to_protest

Legal Observers NSW has fact sheets about protest rights at <https://legalobserversnsw.org/resources/>

The **Environmental Defenders Office** has a fact sheet on Protest and Police Powers in NSW at <https://www.edo.org.au/publication/protest-and-police-powers-in-new-south-wales-2/>

CounterAct has legal resources for activists in NSW at <https://counteract.org.au/resources/legals/nsw/>

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>

9 Legal issues for LGBTQIA+ people

Inner City Legal Centre has fact sheets about a range of legal issues for LGBTIQ people at <https://www.iclc.org.au/fact-sheets/>

See also the resources under “Discrimination” below.

10 Family law and child protection

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

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

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>

Legal Aid NSW also provides information about *Caring for kids in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families* at <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources/caring-for-kids>

Women’s Legal Service NSW 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/>

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://dcj.nsw.gov.au/children-and-families/protecting-our-kids.html>

11 Mental health and cognitive impairment

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://idsr.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>

12 Housing

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>

13 Consumer issues and debts

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

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

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

Redfern Legal Centre has a range of employment law factsheets at https://rlc.org.au/resources?f%5B0%5D=resource_type%3A149&f%5B1%5D=resources_topics%3A97

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

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, including how to deal with discrimination and make a complaint: <https://antidiscrimination.nsw.gov.au/anti-discrimination-nsw/discrimination.html>

17 Complaints against government agencies

Legal Aid NSW has information about government agencies and complaints at <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/complaints-about-a-service/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 January 2025

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