

What to do if you do not get legal aid

Anyone can talk to a lawyer for free at Tasmania Legal Aid.

To get free legal information call 1300 366 611, drop into our Hobart or Launceston office (no appointment necessary) or use the Legal Talk chat function on our website. We are open Monday to Friday, 8.45am to 5pm.

A lawyer can listen to your story and help identify the next steps you can take.

If you apply for a grant of legal aid and your application is unsuccessful, you may be able to have your application reviewed.

Watch the video for an overview or read below for more information.

What if I don't agree with the outcome of my application for a grant of legal aid?

If you do not agree with the decision about your grant of legal aid you can request that the decision is reviewed. In your request for review, you'll need to explain the reasons why you think your application should be reviewed. It is important to know not all decisions can be reviewed.

Decisions that can be reviewed:

- Refusal of a grant of aid (except a refusal based on too much income and assets)
- Refusal to extend a grant of aid to cover more hours or a different stage of work
- Refusal to approve a disbursement or out-of-pocket expense (for example, the cost of an expert report)
- Unhappy with the conditions of grant of aid
- Termination of a grant of aid

Decisions that cannot be reviewed:

- If your grant of legal aid has a condition that you be represented by a lawyer from Tasmania Legal Aid, or a private lawyer, you cannot appeal against this condition
- Refusal of legal aid due to your income or assets being too high (failing the means test). If you can provide more information about your income and assets that shows a clearer financial situation your lawyer can apply again with this extra information.

How do I seek a review?

You can seek a review by any of the following ways:

1. Complete the [online form](#)
2. Write to us and send either:
 - by email to Grants.Officer@legalaid.tas.gov.au
 - GPO Box 1422 Hobart 7001 TAS – address to Reviews
3. Telephone 1300 366 611 and one of our lawyers will fill in the online form and submit it for you.

How soon do I need to make a request to review a decision?

You should send us your request to review a decision within 14 days of receiving the decision. In special circumstances someone may be approved more than 14 days, but they need to explain why they were not able to appeal earlier. This only happens in exceptional circumstances.

How long will it take to get back to me on my review?

We will consider all request for review as soon as we can and get back to you with the outcome. We aim to do this within 20 working days. Please make sure you tell us all the information about why you think a new decision needs to be made about your application and include any supporting documents.

[Did this answer your question?](#)

This is written for people who live in or who are affected by the laws of Tasmania, Australia. The law changes all the time – this information is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should talk to a lawyer before making a decision about what to do.