

Senior Assist

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, 9am to 5pm.

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

Senior Assist is a team of lawyers and case managers providing free legal advice, help and support to seniors who are experiencing, or at risk of elder abuse. They have produced "Everyone deserves respect" which you can download under the Self Help section.

What is Senior Assist?

Senior Assist is a team of lawyers and case managers providing free legal advice, help and support to seniors who are experiencing, or at risk of elder abuse. We can also help with information and planning to prevent elder abuse. We can visit people in their home or a safe place.

What is 'elder abuse'?

Elder abuse is "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person." Elder abuse may be financial, physical, spiritual, psychological or sexual. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect.

Who can Senior Assist help?

We can help if you:

- live in Tasmania
- are aged 65+ or 50+ if you are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- are experiencing or at risk of elder abuse

What does Senior Assist do?

The Senior Assist team can work with you to:

- Assist you to understand your legal options to protect you and your assets
- Providing emotional support to deal with what is happening
- Provide advice about steps you can take to prevent abuse such as enduring powers of attorney, enduring guardianship, advanced care directives and Wills
- Support you to make decisions about your safety and future needs
- Support you to remove the person who is causing you distress from your home
- Provide legal advice and support to apply for restraint orders (including support at court)
- Advise you regarding recovery of your property (e.g. money, personal belongings or assets such as your car)
- Draft letters for you to send e.g. to request the return of your money or to request that abusive behaviour stop
- Help you to report abuse to police or other authorities
- Assist you to access other supports or to pursue legal options
- Provide information sessions to groups and community agencies about our elder abuse.

How much does Senior Assist charge?

Our service is free and confidential – we work at your pace and only do what you want us to do.

Can Senior Assist help me if I'm not experiencing elder abuse?

If you are not experiencing elder abuse, Tasmania Legal Aid has other services and programs which may be able to help you.

Service providers, please email referrals to senior.assist@legalaid.tas.gov.au

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.