

WLSWA Family Law (Property) Legal Clinic

What it is

WLSWA runs a free Legal Clinic once (sometimes twice) a month to provide women with one-off legal advice about the family law financial matter.

This is mainly advice about their family law property settlement matters but could also include child support, spousal maintenance, adult child maintenance or questions about court procedure or enforcement of current orders.

WLSWA does not provide advice about financial or child support agreements.

You will need to contact Family Law Practitioners Association of WA to find an accredited family law specialist for advice about a financial agreement

Why we do it

We are not funded to provide family law financial advice. The Legal Clinic services are provided by some of our in-house lawyers but predominantly by lawyers from private family law firms who volunteer their time to assist our clients.

How often we run the Legal Clinic depends on the number of the number of volunteer lawyers we have at that time. If you are a lawyer interested in volunteering please contact our Principal Legal Officer.

Who the Legal Clinic can help

The WLSWA Legal Clinic is designed to assist women who need legal advice about their family law financial matter who do not have a lawyer and who can not afford one.

The WLSWA Legal Clinic is not suitable for women who have ongoing or complex family court proceedings as the Clinic appointments are one hour and our lawyers (most of whom volunteer their time) do not have the time to review the court documents required for them to provide you with legal advice for your situation.

Requesting a Legal Clinic Appointment

To request a Legal Clinic Appointment, you need to contact our Service either by calling (08) 9272 8800 or by emailing us at info@wlswa.org.au.

We will need to know your full name and date of birth as well as the full name and date of birth of any other party (or potential other party) in your matter. This is required so we can do a conflict check (which we are required to do as legally and ethically we are not allowed to act for more than one party in any legal matter).

If we cannot assist

Please note if we did have a conflict (e.g. if we were already or had already acted for another party in your matter) we are not allowed to tell you this and we will just let you know that we are sadly unable to assist.

We thank you in advance for your understanding about these requirements.

If we can assist – further information we need from you

If we are able to assist you, we will ask you to complete our Background Information Form (this can be downloaded off our website).

Once that it is returned we will add you to our Waiting List and be in touch when a Clinic appointment becomes available.

Please note that if you are unable to complete this please contact our Service and we can go through it with you over the phone.

We do require the information in the Background Information Form prior to offering you an appointment as we need to assess the complexity of your matter to make sure we have a lawyer with the required level of experience to assist you.

It also means the lawyer can spend more time advising you and less time just getting these details from you during your appointment.

Once your Background Information Form is returned

Once the Background Information Form is completed, we will put you on our waiting list and be in touch with you once an appointment time becomes available.

We will prioritise matters which are urgent and while we do our best to provide as many women as we can with appointments, there can be a lot of demand for this service and it might take several weeks or longer before an appointment is available. It does depend on our volunteers and staff we have available at the time. It is best to request assistance as soon as possible in your matter.

While waiting for an appointment you are certainly welcome to contact other community legal centres to see if they can assist you on a more urgent basis. If you no longer require our assistance please let us know as soon as possible so we can take you off the waiting list.

At your Appointment

On the day of your appointment please bring with you any documents you have which are relevant to your case (but be mindful that the lawyer may not have time to review a lot of documents). Examples of documents which may be relevant and which you should bring along are recent letters from the other party or their lawyer and any court orders.

Please arrive at least 10 minutes early for your appointment. The lawyer will meet you in our waiting area. If your appointment is by phone, please provide us with two phone numbers (if possible) in case your battery runs out or one number does not work.

Questions and Feedback

If you have any questions or feedback about our Service please contact us at 08 9272 8800 or email us at info@wlsws.org.au.