

Community Resources for Kinship Carers





Kinship Carers Victoria
is supported by the Victorian Government.

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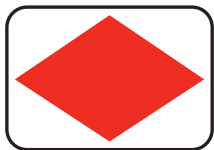
Seniors Rights Legal Clinic

The Seniors Rights Legal Clinic offers free legal assistance to older Victorians who are unable to afford a private lawyer and who are seeking advice regarding elder abuse, including on issues such as:

- Powers of Attorney
- Financial matters
- Housing
- Family arrangements
- Violence/abuse and
- Grandparenting and caring issues (occasionally an issue for older kinship carers dealing with difficult extended family circumstances).



Call **(03) 8636 4410** for further information and to make an appointment to attend a clinic.



Office of the Public Advocate

Office of the Public Advocate

The Victorian Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) provides services to protect and promote the rights, interests and dignity of people with disability (specifically intellectual impairment, mental disorder, brain and injury or dementia) living in Victoria.

These services include guardianship, advice, education, information, research, advocacy and support and are delivered by the OPA employees and 650 OPA volunteers.

Advice service phone: **1300 309 337** Monday to Friday 9am–4:45pm.



Victoria Legal Aid

Victorian Legal Aid (VLA) provides free legal information and education with a focus on prevention and early resolution of legal problems. The VLA also provides more intense legal services such as legal advice and representation for people who meet eligibility criteria,

based on their financial situation, the nature and seriousness of their problem and their individual circumstances. VLA serves the Victorian community in the following areas:

- Access and equity assisting people dealing with legal issues by ensuring that VLA services are accessible .
- Civil justice and administrative laws aim to contribute to inclusive and right-respecting community, addressing such matters as social security, mental health, guardianship and administration, infringements, immigration, tenancy, debt, discrimination, sexual harassment and victims of crime.
- Criminal law providing high-quality legal advice and representation for people charged with criminal offences who cannot otherwise afford legal assistance and who meet our eligibility criteria.
- Chambers providing advocacy for legally aided clients in civil, criminal and family, youth and children's law.
- Family law resolving family disputes and respond to state intervention to archive safe, workable and child-focused care arrangements for children. We help to build capacity to resolve future disputes with legal assistance. We also assist with family violence intervention order matters.
- Mental health advocacy to assist people on compulsory treatment orders with support and advocacy to assist them in having a say in their assessment, treatment, and recovery.

Online chat with VLA

Depending on availability, a chat window will appear 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday.

Free legal advice

Lawyers who can talk to you about how the law applies to your legal problem.

Get a lawyer to run your case

If you can't afford a lawyer you can apply for a grant of legal assistance.

Phone: **1300 792 387** – Speak to us in your language.

Court Network's Children's Court Program

Volunteer Court Networkers provide services to all people attending Children's Court. This includes children, parent(s), grandparent(s), extended family and friends who are appearing at court.

Court Network volunteers can:

- provide practical and emotional support about going to court
- provide personal support on the day(s) in court
- explain how the court and the legal system operate
- provide a safe place in court
- refer you to other services that may help

Court Networks support is provided through personally approaching the service at court, through telephone referral, and by community agencies requesting the service. Court Network has contact with an extensive number of agencies and practitioners from whom we accept referrals. These include Grandparents Victoria/Kinship Carers Victoria. Carers may also refer themselves to the program.

For further information about our service, call the Court Network Telephone Information and Referral Services on:

Freecall: **1800 681 614** or **(03) 9603 7433**.



Victorian Ombudsman

The Ombudsman takes complaints about Victorian government organisations, including the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). We encourage you to complain to DHHS first. If you're not happy with its response and the issue continues to affect you, we may be able to help.

Phone: **(03) 9613 6222**

Free call: **1800 806 314** (regional only)

Email: **complaints@ombudsman.vic.gov.au**

Website: **www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au**

ombudsman **VICTORIAN**



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Commission for Children and Young People

The Commission is an independent statutory body that promotes improvement in policies and practices affecting the safety and wellbeing of Victorian children and young people and works to ensure that the rights

of all children and young people in Victoria are recognised, respected and defended. The Commission also:

- provides independent scrutiny of services for children and young people, particularly those in the out-of-home-care, child protection and youth justice systems
- advocates for best practice policy and program and responses to meet the needs of children and young people
- supports and regulates organisations that work with children and young people to prevent abuse and make sure these organisations have child-safe practices
- brings the views and experiences of children and young people to the attention of government and community

Enquiries **1300 78 29 78**. Email: contact@ccyp.vic.gov.au



**LAW
INSTITUTE
VICTORIA**

Legal Referral Service

The Legal Referral Service is a service provided by the Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) that gives referrals to lawyers and is able to offer support in languages other than English.

Law firms listed with the service will provide you with an initial consultation of up to 30 minutes free of charge. This is usually enough time for a lawyer to make an overall assessment of your matter. You should discuss fees and charges with the lawyers you are referred to, because their normal fees and charges will apply after the initial 30-minute consultation.

There are two options for obtaining a letter of referral: a phone service or an online service.

By phone, you will be able to speak to a staff representative who can provide assistance if you are unsure about the kind of lawyer you will need. Please note that we do not have lawyers answering the phone and we do not provide legal advice. Phone referrals, call **(03) 9670 9550**.

Our online service provides the convenience of being able to request a referral at any time of the day or night and to search the listings of lawyers and firms yourself. Online referrals website – www.legalreferrals.liv.asn.au



| Community Legal Centre | Telephone | Email |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service | 1800 105 303 | information@fvpls.org |
| Barwon Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 5221 4744 | bcls@barwoncls.org.au |
| Brimbank Community Legal Service - Melton | (03) 9971 1800 | info@communitywest.org.au |
| Brimbank Community Legal Service - St Albans | (03) 8312 2000 | info@communitywest.org.au |
| Broadmeadows Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 9302 3911 | broadmeadows_VIC@clc.net.au |
| Casey Cardinia Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 9793 1993 | caseyclc@vicnet.au |
| Central Highlands Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 5331 5999 | chcl@netconnect.com.au |
| Darebin Community Legal Service Inc | (03)9484 7753 | Darebin_Vic@clc.net.au |
| Eastern Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 9762 6235 | outeast@eclc.org.au |
| Family Mediation Center | (03) 9556 5333 | family@mediation.com.au |
| Fitzroy Legal Service Inc | (03) 9419 3744 | enquiries@fitzroy-legal.org.au |
| Flemington & Kensington Community Legal Service | (03) 9376 4355 | fklegal@fkclc.org.au |
| Footscray Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 9689 8444 | admin@footscrayclc.org.au |
| Gippsland Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 5133 0411 | Gipps_Vic@cc.net.au |
| Hume Riverina Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 6057 5000 | cls@umfc.com.au |
| Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 5444 4363 | admin@advocacyandrights.org.au |
| Monash Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 9905 4336 | NA |
| Moonee Valley Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 9376 7929 | admin@mvls.org.au |
| Moreland Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 9383 2588 | info@morelandclc.org.au |
| Murray Mallee Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 5023 5966 | NA |
| North Melbourne Community Legal Service Inc | (03) 9328 1885 | info@nmls.org.au |
| Peninsula Community Legal Service Inc - Bentleigh | (03) 9783 3600 | pclc@pclc.org.au |
| Peninsula Community Legal Service Inc - Cranbourne | (03) 9570 8455 | pclc@pclc.org.au |
| Peninsula Community Legal Service Inc - Frankston | (03) 5995 3722 | pclc@pclc.org.au |
| Peninsula Community Legal Service Inc - Rosebud | (03) 5981 2422 | pclc@pclc.org.au |



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