



## What does it cost?

Applying to the Clearing House is free. However, some pro bono lawyers may ask you to pay for expenses incurred in representing you.

## Is my application confidential and private?

The Law Society and the Clearing House will treat all information provided by you as confidential. However, your information may need to be discussed with one or more lawyers when assessing your application.

Once your application has been accepted or refused, all the documentation you provided, including the application form, will be provided to the lawyer concerned, or returned to you.

## How do I apply?

Application forms are available from:

**The Law Society**

28 Murray Street, Hobart

p 6234 4133

e [info@taslawsociety.asn.au](mailto:info@taslawsociety.asn.au)

w [www.taslawsociety.asn.au](http://www.taslawsociety.asn.au)



# Do you have a legal issue?

If so, the Law Society's  
Pro Bono Clearing  
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The Law Society of Tasmania

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## What is the Pro Bono Clearing House?

Supported by the Law Society of Tasmania, the Clearing House aims to match people and organisations with a lawyer where there is a genuine need to provide legal assistance that cannot be obtained in other ways.

## What sort of legal issues will the Clearing House accept?

The Clearing House will assess applications for two types of matters:

- ✓ Public interest law matters that affect a significant number of people or that raise matters of broad public concern; and
- ✓ Private interest law matters, where the failure to assist someone may result in a significant injustice occurring to an individual.

The Clearing House will not deal with a matter if it is thought such assistance should be provided by the Legal Aid Commission. To find out more about legal aid, call (03) 6236 3800 or visit [www.legalaid.tas.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au)

## Who can apply?

Individuals and some organisations can apply for assistance from the Clearing House. Eligible organisations include 'not for profit' or community groups whose purpose is primarily charitable and can demonstrate an appropriate financial need.

Individuals and organisations may be eligible for assistance if they are likely to suffer a serious injustice without legal representation, are not eligible for a grant of legal aid, have insufficient means to afford legal services at professional charging rates and whose matter has a reasonable prospect of success.

## What happens when I apply?

Your application will be assessed against the scheme's eligibility criteria. If the application meets the criteria, you may be invited for an interview with a lawyer to ensure all the necessary documentation has been provided. No legal advice is provided at the interview.

The application will then be reviewed by an assessment committee and referred to a lawyer if approved.

If a lawyer accepts your matter, he or she will contact you directly. It is important for you and your lawyer to agree on the terms of any engagement, including any costs that may be incurred. The Clearing House can not guarantee it will be able to find a lawyer for all matters.

