
CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

What is a Conflict of Interest?

A law firm or legal service is not allowed to act for both parties in a legal dispute. To do so would result in a conflict of interest. Avoiding a conflict of interest is important to ensure a lawyer is acting solely in the best interests of a client.

ECLC is unable to act against a current or former client of the Centre. Once a person becomes a client of ECLC, they will always be a client, even if the dispute has been settled. If a conflict of interest is found, this may mean that we have seen the other party to the dispute in the past or it may be due to other factors.

Due to confidentiality reasons we are unable to give you any further information about when or how a conflict of interest has occurred.

All community legal centres, Legal Aid and private lawyers follow Conflict of Interest guidelines. If staff tell you that, "There is a Conflict of Interest":

- It does not mean that we do not want to help you.
- It means that we can't help you for professional reasons.

If a conflict of interest is found or we become aware of a conflict while assisting you, we must refer you elsewhere, usually to another community legal centre, Victoria Legal Aid or a private lawyer.

Referral Options

Generalist Community Legal Centres

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • Casey Cardinia Community Legal Centre | 9793 1993 |
| • Monash Oakleigh Legal Service | 9905 4336 |
| • Springvale Monash Legal Service | 9562 3144 |
| • Fitzroy Legal Service | 9419 3744 |
| • Peninsula Community Legal Centre | 1800 064 784 |

Specialist Community Legal Centres

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • Youth Law | 9611 2412 |
| • Women's Legal Service Victoria | 8622 0600 |
| • Seniors Rights Victoria | 1300 368 821 |
| • Tenants Union of Victoria | 9416 2577 |
| • Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service | 9418 5999 |
| • Consumer Action Law Centre | 9670 5088 |
| • Disability Discrimination Legal Service | 1300 882 872 |
| • Job Watch | 1800 331 617 |

Or contact the Federation of Community Legal Centres on 9652 1500.

Victoria Legal Aid

- Legal Help line 1300 792 387
- Ringwood Office 9259 5444

Private lawyer

We can provide you with a Referral List. Private lawyers usually charge for their services, although some may offer an initial free 30-minute consultation. We recommend that you enquire about fees before making an appointment.

Law Institute of Victoria

- Legal Referral Service 9603 9550