

Seniors Legal and Support Service



Free assistance for seniors
concerned about
elder abuse, mistreatment or
financial exploitation



Funded by



Queensland Government

The Seniors Legal and Support Service provides free legal and support services for seniors concerned about elder abuse, mistreatment or financial exploitation.

How can the Seniors Legal and Support Service assist you?

The service can:

- provide information, advice and support regarding elder abuse, mistreatment or financial exploitation
- provide short-term counselling
- provide information on your legal rights
- refer you to other legal, consumer and support services
- represent you in court or before tribunals (in certain circumstances)
- provide community education.

How can you access this assistance?

You can make an appointment to meet with an experienced staff member at your local service centre.

If you are unable to access your local service centre, a telephone consultation or a meeting at your home can be arranged (where possible).

What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse is any act within a relationship of trust which results in harm to an older person.

It can include:

- intentionally hurting a person — for example, slapping, hitting or mistreating someone
- intentionally damaging another person's property — for example, hurting pets or breaking belongings
- verbal intimidation, humiliation, harassment or threats of physical harm or abandonment
- unwanted sexual approaches or indecent behaviour towards another person
- preventing a person from seeing others or denying them the right to make their own decisions
- intentional or unintentional failure to provide adequate care.



What is financial exploitation?

Financial exploitation can include:

- the illegal or improper use or misappropriation of a person's property or finances
- forced changes to a will or other legal documents
- denying someone the right to access and control their personal funds
- unfair or fraudulent practices relating to retirement villages, aged rental accommodation or residential parks.



Seniors Legal and Support Service

The Seniors Legal and Support Service can help if you are experiencing, witnessing or concerned about elder abuse. For information or assistance contact your local service centre.

The Seniors Legal and Support Service cannot provide assistance in all areas of law. The service does not include preparing wills, advice on real estate, financial or investment planning. If the service is unable to assist you, every effort will be made to refer you to an appropriate service.



The Seniors Legal and Support Service is funded by the Queensland Department of Communities and delivered by community legal centres.



Seniors Legal and Support Service centres

Brisbane

3214 6333

Cairns

4031 7179

Hervey Bay

4124 6863

Toowoomba

4616 9700

Townsville

4721 5511



Privacy

The service abides by the National Privacy Principles contained in the *Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988*. Information supplied to us is confidential and will not be given to anyone else unless authorised. We do, however, give non-identifying statistical information about our services to our funding bodies. Clients have a right to access any personal information we collect or to make a complaint to the service if they have concerns about these matters.

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