

Victorian Legal Services
BOARD + COMMISSIONER



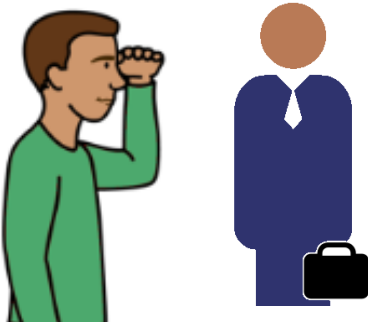
You need a lawyer.

What do you pay?



You need a lawyer. It can be to

- ask about your legal problem
- go to court.



Find a lawyer who

- knows about your sort of legal problem
- uses words you understand

and



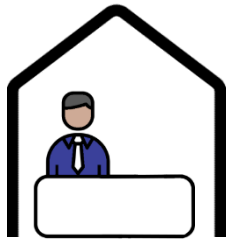
- you can afford to pay.

You have the money to pay.

You may need to pay your lawyer.



You can ask the lawyer some questions.



Before you meet a lawyer

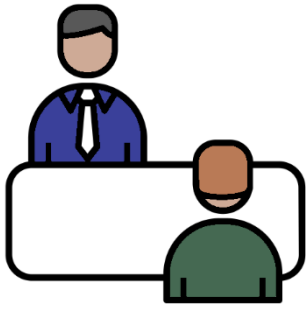


It is for your first meeting.

Ask do you need to pay?



Ask how much you pay?

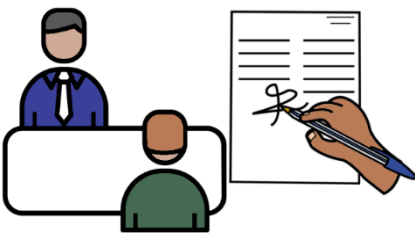


You meet the lawyer



Ask how much do you pay?

It is for all the work.



Like

- when you meet with the lawyer
- your lawyer writes notes

and



- in court.



How do you pay?

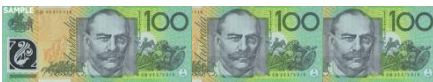
It can be you pay money for each hour.



Like it is \$ 200 for each hour of work.

Your lawyer works 5 hours. You pay \$ 1000.

Or



You pay just 1 lot of money.



It is for all the work. Like it costs \$ 1000.

There is no more to pay.

Or



You only pay if you win in court. It is called **no win no fee**. Ask the lawyer. You may still need to pay **some** money.



Will you need to pay more?



Will the lawyer ask for more money?

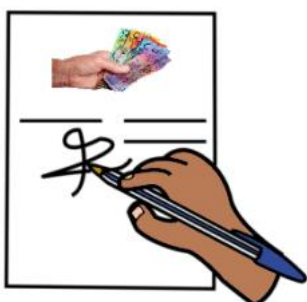
It can be for more work. Like

- more meetings

or



- more letters.



How will the lawyer tell you?

Does the lawyer write you a letter?



You pay the lawyer



Do you pay

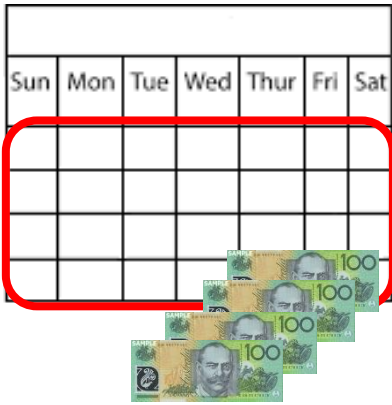
- after each meeting

or



- just 1 lot of money?

It is the end of all the help.



When do you pay?

Your lawyer gives you the bill.

It tells you when you need to pay

Like you have 28 days to pay.

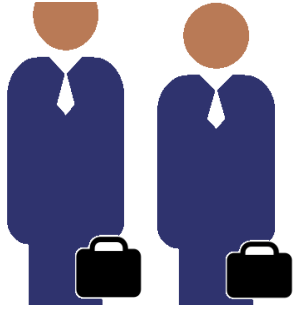
It is the same as 4 weeks.



Ask can you make a plan?

Like you pay a little money each month.

It is for 4 months.

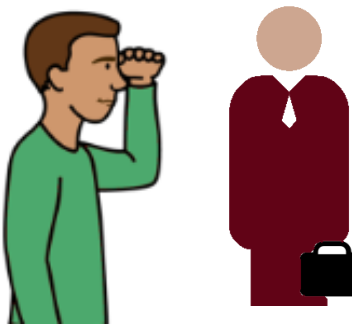


You have your first meeting.

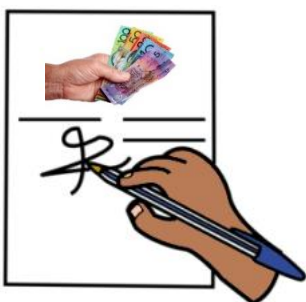
You ask your questions. You can choose

- to see this lawyer

or



- look for a different lawyer.



Ask the lawyer to write down what you will pay.

Talk about how you want to pay.



You can **not** pay a lawyer.

You do **not** have the money to pay.

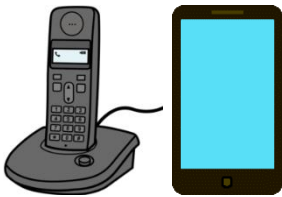
You may be able to get free legal help.

Like Victoria Legal Aid.



You do **not** know much English.

You can ask for an interpreter.



Call 03 9679 8001.



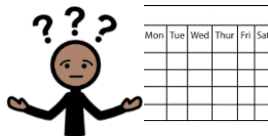
Email C&R@lsbc.vic.gov.au



This fact sheet is based on the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner fact sheet Six questions to ask about legal costs. December 2021.

Images

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Access Easy English wrote the Easy English. March 2022.