

Information for Applicants

What is the Self-Representation Service (Federal Courts)?

The Self-Representation Service provides free legal advice and help with legal tasks to self-represented litigants in the Adelaide and Darwin registries of the Federal Court and Federal Circuit Court.

The Service is operated by JusticeNet SA, an independent, not-for-profit organisation that coordinates pro bono legal services for individuals and community groups.

Who is eligible for assistance from the Service?

You may be eligible for assistance if your legal problem falls within one of the following areas:

- Bankruptcy;
- Migration law;
- Judicial review;
- Anti-discrimination;
- Competition and consumer law;
- Information privacy;
- Fair Work; or
- Appeals to the Federal Circuit Court or Federal Court.

The extent of help that the Service can provide will be determined by your income and assets, the strength of your case and other factors.

The Service does not provide assistance with criminal, family, complex commercial or native title matters.

What assistance does the Service provide?

If you are eligible for assistance, you will be offered a free 1 hour consultation with a solicitor. Further appointments can be made as necessary. The solicitor will help you to present your own case by:

- giving legal advice;
- drafting documents, including pleadings, affidavits, court forms, submissions and correspondence; and

- a referral, if appropriate, for further advice, support or representation.

If you cannot attend our office in person your appointment will be by telephone / video call.

The aim of the Service is to assist you to:

- understand the law, the rights and perspective of the other party, and the perspective and requirements of the court;
- observe court rules and procedures;
- be aware of potential time limits and costs of litigation, including costs orders; and
- present your case in the best possible manner.

What the Service will not do?

The solicitors who help you will not:

- take on the conduct of your legal problem;
- represent you at court hearings or trials;
- communicate with the court, other parties or legal representatives on your behalf; or
- pay any fees, disbursements or costs orders incurred by you.

How do I apply for assistance?

Complete an application form and return it to JusticeNet by email, post or in person. Application forms are available from our office, the Adelaide or Darwin Federal Court registry or the JusticeNet website.

The Service cannot provide you with legal advice if you do not have an appointment. However, the Service may provide general information and help you to complete the application form on a drop-in basis.

For more information

www.justicenet.org.au/srs.html

Contact us

E: fcsrs@justicenet.org.au

T: (08) 8410 2280

1800 283 661 (for callers outside Adelaide)

W: www.justicenet.org.au

P: GPO Box 11024, Adelaide SA, 5001

Our location

Level 7, Roma Mitchell Commonwealth

Law Courts Building,

3 Angas Street

Adelaide SA 5000

JusticeNet SA acknowledges the support of the Commonwealth Government and our participating law firms.