

Older Persons ACT Legal Service (OPALS)

What We Do

OPALS is a specialist service within Legal Aid ACT which offers **FREE** and flexible legal assistance for issues that affect older people. For ongoing legal assistance and representation you may need to apply for a grant of legal assistance.

Older Persons ACT Legal Service (OPALS)

9.00am-4.00pm Monday-Friday

www.legalaidact.org.au/opals

Phone: (02) 6243 3436

Email: opals@legalaidact.org.au

Are you experiencing any problems?

- Are you worried about your safety?
- Are you being treated with respect by family and friends?
- Are you happy where you are living?
- Is someone trying to change your living arrangements without your consent?
- Does someone owe you money?
- Is someone asking you for money?
- Do you owe money and not sure how you will pay?
- Would you like to see your grandchildren or do you see them too often?
- Do you need information about a will, enduring power of attorney or other documents?
- Have you been treated unfairly because of your age?

We can come to you

We recognise that it can be difficult to get to our office in the City so we can come to you if needed. We are happy to meet at your home, local coffee shop or anywhere you feel comfortable.

Assistance

We know that each person's problem will be different. We can meet with you, discuss what is happening, and give you both legal and non-legal options for moving forward.

Cost

This is a **FREE** service. But if the only solution to your problem is going to court there could be costs involved. If you want to take this option we may need to refer you to a private lawyer.

Confidentiality

We are a confidential legal service and will not discuss your matter with anyone or take any action without your consent first.

Concerned for Someone?

Are you concerned about an older person's safety and not sure what to do? You are welcome to call us and have a chat, we can provide you with options on how you can help.

Abuse of Older People

OPALS has a particular interest in preventing the abuse of older people. This can involve early intervention by recognising abuse before it becomes more serious. Like everyone else in the community, older people have a right to live safely and securely whether independently or if they are in the care of another person.

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Training

Delivering training on elder abuse is a key part of our work. If your service, club or organisation would like training on elder abuse, please contact OPALS.

Publications

We have a series of booklets on elder abuse. You can find these on our website:
www.legalaidact.org.au/what-we-do/information-education

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