

Student Legal 'Survival' Guide

Do you have concerns about your housing? Work? Drink driving charges? Debt? Visas? Your personal safety?

Housing Issues

- Do you have a housing issue?
- Has your housemate left without paying the bills?
- Have you damaged your rental property?

Legal Aid ACT

If you are having a problem with your housing or renting, Legal Aid ACT can help.

www.legalaidact.org.au

Phone: **1300 654 314**

Another useful service is the Tenants' Union. They have helpful factsheets on their website which may answer your questions.

Tenants' Union

Free tenancy advice line

www.tenantsact.org.au

Phone: **6247 2011**

Debt

If you are having difficulties paying your debts or managing your budget, Care Inc. is a free financial counselling service that may be able to help you.

Care Financial Counselling Service

Financial Counselling

www.carefcs.org

Phone: **1800 007 007**

- Make sure you actually owe the debt. Make sure you are given proof (documents, account statements) of the debt before you do anything.

- Contact the creditor (person or business you owe money to) to talk about a repayment plan.
- Keep copies of any letters you send or receive, as well as notes of any conversations you have. Writing letters can be difficult. If you are under 25, the Youth Law Centre may be able to help you with this.

Youth Law Centre

Free legal service for young people aged 12-25

www.legalaidact.org.au

Phone: **(02) 6173 5410**

Email: ylc@legalaidact.org.au

- Make a formal complaint if a creditor or debt collector misleads, threatens or abuses you.

Visa Issues

If after contacting the Department of Home Affairs, you are unable to resolve your visa concerns, contact the Migration Clinic at Legal Aid ACT. The Migration Clinic is very busy and appointments are generally booked out well in advance. The Night Time Legal Service at Canberra Community Law may also be able to help you.

Migration Clinic - Legal Aid ACT

www.legalaidact.org.au

Phone: **1300 654 314**

Email: migration@legalaidact.org.au

Night Time Legal Advice Services (NTLAS)

Canberra Community Law

www.canberracommunitylaw.org.au

Phone: **(02) 6218 7999**

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Drink Driving Offences

You should be aware that:

- The blood alcohol limit for special drivers ('P' plate drivers) is 0.00.
- The blood alcohol limit is 0.05 for all other drivers.
- The police are required to suspend a person's licence on the spot if the person is caught exceeding
- Their blood alcohol limit by 0.05 (i.e. 0.05 for special drivers and 0.10 for all others).
- If you are charged with a drink driving offence you may be eligible for a restricted licence. Contact Legal Aid to verify your eligibility.

Legal Aid runs free legal information sessions for people charged with drink driving offences. We may also be able to assist you with other driving charges.

Legal Aid ACT

www.legalaidact.org.au/events

Phone: **1300 654 314**

Buying a Used Car

- Make sure that the person selling the car is the registered operator and has a registration certificate. Always get a receipt if you are buying privately. The person selling the car to you must be the person on all of the legal documents.
- Do a 'REVS' check to make sure the car is unencumbered. This means that a finance company does not have a security interest over the car and that the car is free from old debt.
- Confirm whether there are any warranties. Private sellers do not generally give warranties, because it is

'buyer beware'. This means that it is your responsibility to make sure the car is safe and in good condition before you buy it. However if they do, get them to write it down. If something happens to the car it may be possible to cancel the contract or seek damages.

- If you are not sure about the condition of the car try to get it checked by a mechanic before you buy it.
- If you purchase a used car from a dealer, the dealer must:
 - attach a written notice about the vehicle
 - give you a three-business-day cooling off period
 - repair any defects so that the vehicle is in a reasonable condition for its age.
- Any defects brought to your attention by a defect notice are excluded from the dealer's warranty.

Employment

- Have you been underpaid?
- Are you being bullied or discriminated against?
- Were you unfairly dismissed from work?

Legal Aid ACT

Legal Aid ACT can give free legal advice on employment issues

www.legalaidact.org.au

Phone: **1300 654 314**

Fair Work Ombudsman

Information and advice about your workplace rights

<https://www.fairwork.gov.au/>

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Personal safety

You can apply for a family violence order or a personal protection order if someone has engaged in any of the following acts against you:

- physical or personal injury
- sexual assault
- stalking or acts of indecency
- trespass or damage to your property
- negligent, reckless or culpable driving
- harassment or offensive conduct
- violence directed at your pet
- threats of any of the above

Legal Aid ACT

Domestic Violence and Personal Protection
Order Unit

www.legalaidact.org.au

Phone: **1300 654 314** or **(02) 6207 1874**