

Older Persons ACT Legal Service (OPALS)

Contact Details

9.00 am to 4.00pm Mon - Fri

Phone: (02) 6243 3436

Email: opals@legalaidact.org.au

Address: 2 Allsop Street, Canberra

Website: www.legalaidact.org.au/opals

What is OPALS?

OPALS is a specialist service within Legal Aid ACT which offers **FREE** and flexible legal assistance for issues that affect older people.

There are many problems you could be dealing with, read through this list and see if any apply to you.

- Are you worried about your safety?
- Are you being treated with respect by family and friends?
- Is someone pressuring you to change your living arrangements?
- Does someone owe you money?
- Is someone asking you for money?
- Is a family member, friend or carer spending your money without your permission?
- 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?

- 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.

This is a **FREE** service. But if your problem requires ongoing assistance then you may need to apply to Legal Aid for a grant of legal assistance.

Confidentiality

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

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

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provide you with options on how you can help.

Elder Abuse

This service has a particular interest in preventing the abuse of older people. This can involve early intervention picking up on 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 in the care of another person.

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.

Non-Legal Assistance

We have an Aboriginal support officer and cultural support officers who can assist you with your matter.

Interpreter

If you need an interpreter please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.

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