

## Obtaining legal representation for your personal injury dispute

This fact sheet provides information on the different types of legal representation available.

The Personal Injury Commission resolves personal injury disputes relating to workers compensation and motor accidents matters in NSW. We are an independent statutory tribunal and cannot provide legal advice.

We encourage all claimants and workers to carefully consider legal representation that is right for their personal circumstances.

### What types of legal representation and assistance are available?

#### Community legal centres

Community legal centres may be able to provide free legal advice and assistance in some matters. While they do not represent individuals in court proceedings, they can offer valuable guidance on legal options and procedures.

#### Law Society of NSW

The Law Society of NSW's Solicitor Referral Service helps members of the public find lawyers that are appropriate for their individual circumstances and needs. This includes practitioners skilled in personal injury law. Call 02 9926 0333.

#### Independent Review Office

If you are injured at work, you may be eligible for legal advice through the Independent Legal Assistance and Review Service managed by the Independent Review Office. It provides injured workers with access to advice from approved lawyers at no cost. A lawyer must apply for a grant of funding which will cover your legal fees and other necessary expenses. Visit <https://iro.nsw.gov.au/get-legal-advice>

#### LawAccess NSW

This free government telephone service provides legal information, referrals and, in some cases, legal advice. Call 1300 888 529.

#### Legal Information Access Centre

Based at the State Library of New South Wales, this service provides legal answers, in plain language, for every-day questions about the law. Law librarians can help you find legal information relevant to your issue, which may include legal textbooks, law journals, legislation, and law reports. Visit <https://legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/>

#### Self-representation

You may prefer to represent yourself in legal proceedings. Before deciding whether to represent yourself, you should think about whether you would benefit from being legally represented and consider obtaining legal advice ahead of time about your case. Some lawyers can provide coaching.

The Personal Injury Commission is committed to supporting injured people who choose to self-represent during our proceedings. While we are unable to provide legal advice, we will take the time to explain the Commission's processes and assist you throughout your dispute.

#### Important considerations

Always discuss legal costs upfront with your chosen legal representative to make sure you understand the terms of the agreement and to avoid any surprises. You should also seek an initial consultation to discuss the merits of your case and potential outcomes.

### Contact us

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