

Will I need to access legal advice to protect my finances?

It is important that you also get legal advice as soon as possible to understand and protect your finances.

The Women's Legal Centre

The Women's Legal Centre is a community legal centre for women in Canberra and the surrounding area. The Centre is run by women and aims to improve women's access to justice. The Centre advises on a wide range of legal problems such as domestic violence; divorce and separation; disputes over children; property settlement; child support; going to court; unfair dismissal; and other employment rights.

If you need more assistance or if your problem is outside the Centre's area of expertise, the Centre also offers referral to appropriate lawyers and other support services.

Website: <http://womenslegalact.org/>

The Centre offers free, confidential telephone advice Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Phone: From Canberra **(02) 6257 4377**

Outside Canberra **1800 634 669**

There is no drop-in service at the Centre. Unless you have made an appointment there is unlikely to be a lawyer able to see you. In most cases initial advice can be given by telephone. If necessary, an appointment to see a lawyer is then made. Reasons for appointments include wanting a support person with you, needing help to fill in a form and having questions about documents.

Appointments are available Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm and every Tuesday evening between 5.30pm and 7pm. If you think you need an appointment, ring the advice service:

Consumer Law Centre

The Consumer Law Centre is a non-profit community legal centre that provides free legal advice and assistance to people with low and moderate incomes. They specialise in the areas of consumer credit (mortgages, credit cards and personal loans), debt recovery, banking, bankruptcy, insurance, simple contracts, general fair trading and consumer protection.

Website <https://www.carefcs.org/consumer-law-centre>

Their opening hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Phone: 6143 0044.