

Legal Aid for Parole Board Hearings

Factsheet

This factsheet will provide you with information on how to apply for legal aid, so you can have a lawyer represent you at your upcoming parole board hearing.

Who can apply?

If you have a Parole Board hearing in the next six months, you can apply for Legal Aid to have a lawyer represent you at that hearing.

Note: All hearings under the Parole Act 2002 are eligible for Legal Aid including recall, variation/discharge and extended supervision order hearings.

Any person serving a sentence of imprisonment of more than two years can apply for Legal Aid, there are no citizenship or residency requirements.

Who will be my lawyer?

You can nominate a lawyer to represent you, and you should speak to them to make sure they can take your case. If you do not nominate a lawyer, Legal Aid will assign one for you.

You can search for a Lawyer here:

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/courts/going-to-court/legal-aid/get-legal-aid/legal-aid-lawyer-finder/>

Select Law Type – Criminal, Subcategory – Parole

How do I apply?

You need to complete and sign the 'Application for criminal legal aid' form. That form then needs to be sent to a Legal Aid office or the lawyer you want to act for you.

Your case manager can assist you with this process.

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Forms/Criminal-Legal-Aid-Application-191223.pdf>

What happens next?

Your application will be considered within 24 hours. A letter will be sent to you advising of the decision, and the name of the lawyer who has been assigned to represent you.

Steps to apply for Legal Aid

Step 1

Ask your case manager for an 'Application for criminal legal aid' form. These forms are free.

Step 2

Complete the 'Application for criminal legal aid' form.

At the top of the first page, write the date of your upcoming parole hearing. If you do not know the specific date, write the month of your upcoming hearing.

At Question 33 of the form, you can nominate a specific lawyer that you want to represent you. You must sign the bottom of this page. If you do not nominate a lawyer, Legal Aid will assign one for you.

Sign the form on the last page. This is a statutory declaration so you must be truthful and honest with all the information you provide.

Step 4

Ask your case manager to scan and email your application form to Legal Aid Services or the lawyer you want to act for you.

If you are in a Corrections Facility in Auckland or Northland, the application should be sent here:

AKLCriminallegalaid@justice.govt.nz

If you are in any other Corrections Facility, your application should be sent here:

WGNCRiminallegalaid@justice.govt.nz

Step 5

Legal Aid Services will send you a letter advising if legal aid is granted. This letter will include details on the lawyer assigned to you if legal aid is granted.