

Legal Help and Advice / Support Services

The Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, as an independent Statutory Authority, is unable to provide parties appearing before it with legal or other professional advice. The Protective Division of the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal has therefore compiled a list of organisations who may be able to provide legal and other professional support to individuals attending hearings in the Mental Health and Guardianship streams of the Tribunal. This referral sheet will be distributed along with other key Tribunal documentation and is intended to assist with directing people to bodies able to provide them with support prior to, during, and following a Tribunal hearing.

You may wish to seek legal advice or seek other professional representation or support before attending a hearing in the Protective Division of TASCAT (the Protective Division includes the Guardianship Stream and the Mental Health Stream).

If you have had an application made about you in the Guardianship Stream or the Mental Health Stream, you have an automatic right to representation. Some other parties may need to seek permission from the Tribunal for a lawyer or other professional to represent them.

If you wish to be represented by a lawyer or an advocate, or otherwise seek assistance or support for your hearing, you will need to organise this assistance yourself.

Below is a list of organisations that you can speak to about your matter, and who may be able to assist you.

Where can I find a lawyer to help me?

Tasmania Legal Aid

Tasmania Legal Aid can assist you by providing free or low-cost legal advice and represent you at Tribunal hearings across the state.

You can call their free advice line on 1300 366 611 Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, visit their website at www.legalaid.tas.gov.au or visit their offices in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Devonport.

Crisis?

If you or someone else is in immediate danger call 000;

If you or someone else is experiencing a mental health crisis in Tasmania and requires urgent assessment, call the Mental Health Helpline on 1800 332 388;

If you need to talk call - Lifeline: 13 11 14; or Beyondblue: 1300 22 4636 or SANE Australia helpline; 1800 18 7263

Community Legal Centres

Community Legal Centres provide free or low-cost legal services and have offices located in Hobart, Launceston and the North-West.

- To contact Hobart Community Legal Centre call (03) 6223 2500 or visit www.hobartlegal.org.au
- To contact the Launceston Community Legal Centre call (03) 6334 1577 or visit www.lclc.net.au
- To contact the North West Community Legal Centre call (03) 6424 8720, visit www.mwclc.org.au

Women's Legal Service Tasmania

Women's Legal Service Tasmania provide free legal advice to women across Tasmania through their telephone advice line. Call 1800 682 468 Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm or visit www.womenslegaltas.org.au for more information.

Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service (TALS) provide free legal assistance to all Aboriginal Tasmanians. For assistance please call 1800 595 162 Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm or visit www.tals.net.au

Private legal representation

Should you wish to seek private representation, the Law Society of Tasmania can provide you with a list of private practitioners that can represent you at hearings within the Protective Division of the Tribunal. Please contact the Law Society on (03) 6234 4133 or by email at info@lst.org.au to obtain a copy of the list.

Crisis?

If you or someone else is in immediate danger call 000;

If you or someone else is experiencing a mental health crisis in Tasmania and requires urgent assessment, call the Mental Health Helpline on 1800 332 388;

If you need to talk call - Lifeline: 13 11 14; or Beyondblue: 1300 22 4636 or SANE Australia helpline; 1800 18 7263

Where can I find other information, advocacy and supports?

Advocacy Tasmania

Advocacy Tasmania can provide you with information, support and advice prior to and at your Tribunal hearing. For more information call 1800 005 131 or visit www.advocacytasmania.org.au

Speak out Advocacy

Speak Out represent and support adults with a disability. They can attend Tribunal hearings with you, or on your behalf, and can help provide you with information about your matter. For more information call (03) 6231 2344 or visit <https://www.speakoutadvocacy.org>

Office of the Public Guardian

The Office of the Public Guardian can provide advice on guardianship matters for Tasmanians living with a disability. The Office of the Public Guardian also undertakes the role of Guardian for some Tasmanians. For more information call 1800 955 772 or visit www.publicguardian.tas.gov.au

The Public Trustee

The Public Trustee can provide specialised estate and trustee services to Tasmanians, and also acts as Administrator for some Tasmanians. For more information call 1800 068 784 or visit www.publictrustee.tas.gov.au

Crisis?

If you or someone else is in immediate danger call 000;

If you or someone else is experiencing a mental health crisis in Tasmania and requires urgent assessment, call the Mental Health Helpline on 1800 332 388;

If you need to talk call - Lifeline: 13 11 14; or Beyondblue: 1300 22 4636 or SANE Australia helpline; 1800 18 7263

Citizen Advocacy Launceston Region Inc.

Citizen Advocacy Launceston Region Inc. support and represent people with a disability in the Launceston area. For more information call (03) 6331 2177 Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 4.30pm or visit www.citizenadvocacylton.org.au/contact.html.

The Association for Children with Disability (Tas) Inc.

The Association for Children with Disability (Tas) Inc. provide information, consultation and training, case coordination and peer support for parents with children with a disability. Call 1800 244 742 or visit <https://acdtas.com.au/> for more information.

Protective Division
Phone: 1800 657 500
Web: www.tascat.tas.gov.au
Guardianship Stream: guardianship@tascat.tas.gov.au
Mental Health Stream: mentalhealth@tascat.tas.gov.au
GPO Box 1311, Hobart TAS 700

Crisis?

If you or someone else is in immediate danger call 000;

If you or someone else is experiencing a mental health crisis in Tasmania and requires urgent assessment, call the Mental Health Helpline on 1800 332 388;

If you need to talk call - Lifeline: 13 11 14; or Beyondblue: 1300 22 4636 or SANE Australia helpline; 1800 18 7263