



LEGAL AID SYSTEM

WHAT IS LEGAL AID?

Legal aid means free legal assistance and representation during (i) criminal procedures from the moment a person is considered as a suspect up until trial and (ii) civil disputes. This is a free public service offered by the state.

CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED RIGHT

"A person who cannot afford to pay for ... legal representation ... shall be entitled to have such representation at the public expense." (Article 39)

ELIGIBILITY

Any person who is a party to a civil dispute or who has good grounds for commencing civil legal action and whose maximum income past year their income did not exceed the national minimum wage and total assets did not exceed €6,988.12.

SPECIALISED LEGAL AID

- All victims of crime are entitled to Legal Aid (see **Factsheet No. 10 – Rights of Victims and Legal Aid**). No means test is applied.
- For actions relating to the correction, cancellation of any registration, or for the registration of any act of birth, marriage or death. No means test is applied.
- Asylum appeals, challenges and review of immigration detention, appeals relating to age assessment of unaccompanied children and the reception of asylum-seekers (see **Factsheet No. 2 – Third Country Nationals Unit**). Unclear if a means test is applied for some issues.

ACCESSING LEGAL AID

- Make an appointment with **Legal Aid Malta** at 21, Chateau de la Ville, Archbishop Street, Valletta, legalaidmalta.mjcl@gov.mt, tel: **2567 4330**; or
- Download the form from Legal Aid Malta website: <https://mjcl.gov.mt/en/legalaidmalta/Documents/Application%20Legal%20Aid%20-%20English.pdf>; or
- Submit a request by filing an application before the Civil Court.

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