



LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS*

- The person who requests legal aid applies to the person who is conducting the criminal proceedings (the investigator, prosecutor or judge).
- The decision to appoint a lawyer to provide legal assistance in criminal proceedings shall be taken by the person directing the proceedings and notified to the person requesting legal assistance and to the senior advocate of the area of the court or, in urgent cases, to a lawyer from the duty roster.
- The senior advocate appoints a specific advocate to provide legal assistance to a person in criminal proceedings.

* Regulated by Criminal Procedure Law.



THIS TYPE OF LEGAL AID IS AVAILABLE

- Legal advice;
- Preparation of procedural documents;
- Legal assistance in pre-trial proceedings and in court.



IMPORTANT

- It is important to request legal aid **timely** and to keep informed of any changes to the information provided.
- You must provide documentation on your eligibility for legal aid throughout the duration of the legal aid process.
- Part who receiving legal aid is exempt from paying court costs to the state. The State shall not bear the costs of the proceedings, except for legal aid and related expenses.
- The costs of legal aid shall be recovered by the court from the losing party, except for recipients of legal aid, when giving its decision.
- The provision of legal advice on the merits of the case or on the settlement of specific disputes shall, where legal aid is granted, be provided by the provider of legal aid.
- The recipient of legal aid is obliged to cooperate with the provider of legal aid, including providing comprehensive and timely information related to the dispute to be resolved, informing about the actions taken independently and difficulties in obtaining legal aid.
- The legal assistance provided to a person shall be paid to the legal assistance provider from the State budget funds allocated for this purpose.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Free informative phone:
80001801**

For legal aid contact
Court Administration!



Tiesu administrācija



State ensured legal aid



PERSONS ARE ENTITLED TO LEGAL AID PROVIDED BY THE STATE IF:

Have obtained the status of a low-income or needy person

(Issuance issued by the social services office (to obtain it, contact the social services office of your place of residence)

Fully dependent on the state or local authority

(attested by a issuance issued by the head of the institution)

Suddenly find yourself in a situation and financial situation that prevents you from having your rights protected

(due to natural disasters, force majeure or other circumstances beyond the control of the person, such as violence)



FOR LEGAL AID IN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CASES TO APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION OF THE ORPHANS' COURT:

- A completed application for legal aid (application form), accompanied by copies of the documents supporting the information in the application:
 - Issuance of eligibility as a low-income or deprived household (or other document proving entitlement to state-provided legal aid);
 - documents on the nature of the civil dispute, the decision taken by the orphanage court, the procedure (e.g. contract, court summons, orphanage court decision, etc.).

LEGAL AID IS GRANTED FOR:

- out-of-court legal aid for civil disputes
- in civil matters - legal aid in court;
- in administrative cases, as part of an appeal against a decision of the orphanage court on the protection of the rights and legal interests of the child;
- in other administrative cases, legal aid is requested from the administrative court.



Legal aid can be requested until the final court decision!



HOW TO GET LEGAL AID

Civil law dispute/appeal against a decision of the orphanage court



PERSON

- Low-income or poor household status;
- or fully dependent on the state or local authority;
- or a sudden situation and financial situation beyond the person's control, which makes it impossible to ensure the protection of his/her rights.



SUBMITTING A REQUEST

- Completed legal aid application form;
- a copy of the municipality's
- issuance of eligibility as a poor or low-income household (or other documents confirming eligibility for state-provided legal aid);
- copies of documents describing the nature of the dispute.



DECISION MAKING

Assess the application and take a decision within 21 days or 14 days (for children's rights issues).



COMMUNICATION OF THE DECISION

In a decision of state-provided legal aid, are specified the provider of the legal aid, the place and time of receiving the legal aid.



GETTING STATE-PROVIDED LEGAL AID



The decision can be appealed to the Ministry of Justice, the decision of the Ministry of Justice can be appealed to an administrative court!