

Legal information for young people and youth workers – reference list

1 General legal information

The Law Handbook (Thomson Reuters, 14th edition, 2016) is a comprehensive guide to the law in New South Wales. Chapter 8, on Children and Young People, covers the juvenile justice system, the care and protection system, and other legal issues affecting children. The chapter is available on-line at http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/law_handbook/children.html. Other chapters also contain information relevant to young people.

The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre has a range of legal information sheets for young people and youth workers, available at www.theshopfront.org.

Lawstuff is an Australia-wide legal information site for young people under 18. It provides answers to common legal questions for all states of Australia, and also provides email advice to individuals through its Lawmail service. www.lawstuff.org.au.

The **Legal Aid NSW** website contains information about Legal Aid office contact details, how to apply, forms, etc. There are also pamphlets on a range of legal topics including police powers, bail, Local Courts, domestic violence, family law and debt. These can be ordered from Legal Aid or downloaded straight from the website at www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications.

Youth Action is the peak body for youth organisations in NSW. Their website contains a lot of useful information about legal and policy issues, including some fact sheets for youth workers. www.youthaction.org.au.

The NSW government's **Keep them safe** website provides information for people working with children and young people, including guidelines for reporting children and young people at risk. <http://www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au>.

The **Find Legal Answers** service is managed by the Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC), State Library of NSW. It provides quality, plain English legal information for the people of NSW through NSW public libraries and online. All libraries hold the Find Legal Answers Tool Kit, a collection of plain language books to answer everyday questions about the law. All of these books are also available online. As well as finding plain English books in full text, you can use the website to find links to high quality legal information from agencies including Legal Aid NSW. See www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au

LawAccess a service set up by the NSW government to provide free legal information and referrals to the general public. The site contains a range of legal information and links to other legal sites. See www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au.

Lawlink is the NSW Attorney-General's website, containing links to NSW courts, tribunals and criminal justice agencies. See www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au.

2 Criminal law and police powers

Youth Justice: Your Guide to Cops and Court (Macquarie Legal Centre, Federation Press, 4th Edition 2011) is a guide to the criminal justice system, aimed at young people and those who work with them. You can read it online at http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/youth_justice/ or order copies at <http://federationpress.com.au/bookstore/book.asp?isbn=9781862878129>. *Although this book is now quite old, many parts are still relevant, and there is an online update forthcoming,*

Get Street Smart: Under 18? Know your Legal Rights is a wallet-size guide produced by Legal Aid NSW, explaining young people's rights on the street and with the police. <http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications/factsheets-and-resources/get-street-smart-under-18s-know-your-legal-rights>.

Burn is a short film and website which is part of a crime prevention initiative of Legal Aid NSW. The film tells the story of a 16-year old whose car trip with a group of older boys escalates into a serious act of violence. It demonstrates how dangerous group behaviour can quickly get out of control. The website also contains useful fact sheets on legal topics such as group offending, robbery, assault, Legal Aid and police interviews. <http://burn-movie.com.au/>.

The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre has a large number of fact sheets on criminal law and police powers, available at www.theshopfront.org.

Defend Yourself (T Anderson, Federation Press, 3rd edition, 2014) provides information about court procedure, trials and sentencing, particularly for those who wish to represent themselves.

Rough Deal: A plain English guide to drug laws in NSW (S Bolt, Redfern Legal Centre Publishing, 2nd revised edition, 2006) provides up-to-date and clear information about the drug laws in NSW and how the laws affect drug users.

The **Prisoners' Rights Handbook** (S Rosa, Redfern Legal Centre Publishing 2000) by Solange Rosa is a useful manual which aims to help prisoners be better informed about their rights while in NSW prisons.

3 Driving

The **Roads and Maritime Services** site provides information about driver licensing, traffic laws, demerit points, etc. Includes a link to the online version of the Australian Road Rules, which are part of the law of NSW. www.rms.nsw.gov.au.

Licensing: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/licensing/index.html>

Registration: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/registration/index.html>

Road Rules: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/usingroads/roadrules/index.html>

The **Shopfront Youth Legal Centre** also has some traffic fact sheets at www.theshopfront.org

4 Fines

The **Revenue NSW** contains information about how to deal with outstanding fines, as well as downloadable forms. <http://www.revenue.nsw.gov.au/fines>

Fined Out is a comprehensive guide to the fine enforcement process in NSW, produced by Inner City Legal Centre and Redfern Legal Centre. <http://www.iclc.org.au/fined-out/>

Legal Aid NSW provides information about Work and Development Orders (WDO) for people who are unable to pay fines. <http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications/factsheets-and-resources/work-and-development-orders-help-for-people-who-cant-pay-their-fines>

5 Partying

Inner City Legal Centre also hosts the **Fair Play** site, with information on rights for people attending Mardi Gras and other LGBTIQI events. <http://www.fair-play.org.au/>

6 Victims of crime

Victims Services provides information about victims' rights and services in NSW, including victims compensation. You can download compensation and counselling application forms, guidelines, lists of approved counsellors, etc. www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs

NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions website contains information about the DPP including their prosecution policy and guidelines, and witness assistance service. www.odpp.nsw.gov.au

7 Mental Health and intellectual disability

The **Mental Health Rights Manual** (published by the Mental Health Coordinating Council, 4th edition, 2015) is a guide to the legal and human rights of people with mental illness in NSW. <http://mhrm.mhcc.org.au/home/>

Legal Aid provides information for people who have been involuntarily admitted to hospital. <http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/publications/factsheets-and-resources/have-you-been-involuntarily-admitted-to-a-hospital>

The **Intellectual Disability Rights Service** provides some fact sheets about legal issues affecting people with intellectual disabilities. <http://www.idrs.org.au/publications/factsheets.php>

The **Guardianship Division of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal** (NCAT) publishes fact sheets about legal issues affecting people who may be incapable of managing their own affairs. http://www.ncat.nsw.gov.au/Pages/guardianship/publications_resources/gd_fact_sheets.aspx

8 Family Law, child welfare, care and protection

The **Family Law Courts** website has fact sheets about parenting, separation and children. <http://www.familylawcourts.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/FLC/Home/Children%27s+Matters/>

The **Family Relationship Online** website also contains information for children: <https://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/>

Fact sheets also available here:

<https://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/documents>

The **NSW Children's Court** website provides some information about the court's care and protection jurisdiction. <http://www.childrenscourt.justice.nsw.gov.au/>

The NSW government **Keep them safe** website provides information for people working with children and young people, including guidelines for reporting children and young people at risk. <http://www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au>

9 Complaints

The **NSW Ombudsman** website has information about your rights and the process of making a complaint about agencies such as Community Services, Juvenile Justice, or Corrective Services. <http://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/complaints>

Complaints against NSW Police are now dealt with by the **Law Enforcement Conduct Commission** (LECC). <https://www.lecc.nsw.gov.au/>

10 Social security

The **National Welfare Rights Network** has factsheets to assist individuals with Social Security or Centrelink problems. They provide information on your rights, obligations and entitlements. <https://welfare-rights-centre.org.au/2014/10/28/self-help-2/>

11 Housing

The **Tenants' Rights Manual: A practical guide to renting in NSW** (Federation Press, 4th edition, 2012) by Phillip Blackmore is a useful guide for tenants. It explains what rights tenants have, and shows how problems and disputes can be resolved. It can be bought as a book (last updated in 2012) or can be read online (updated in 2016) at http://www.legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au/guides/tenants_rights_manual/

The **Tenants' Union of NSW** has factsheets on the rights and responsibilities of tenants in NSW <http://www.tenants.org.au/tenants-rights-factsheets>

12 Employment

Fair Work Australia provides information about employee entitlements, bullying and harassment, as well as industrial action and union membership. <http://www.fairwork.gov.au/employee-entitlements>

13 Discrimination

The **Discrimination Toolkit** is published by Kingsford Legal Centre, Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre and Legal Aid NSW (first published 2007, updated 2011) <http://www.klc.unsw.edu.au/sites/klc.unsw.edu.au/files/doc/eBulletins/Discrimination%20Toolkit.pdf>

Inner City Legal Centre has a fact sheet on gay, lesbian and transgender discrimination. http://www.iclc.org.au/documents/CIV_Discrimination_Law.pdf

The **Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW** provides information on all the categories of discrimination covered under the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act. As well as providing an overview of the law, the website provides information on how to resolve discrimination and make a complaint. www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adb

The **Australian Human Rights Commission** provides reports and publications on various areas of discrimination:

Sex discrimination: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/sex-discrimination>

Racial discrimination: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/race-discrimination>

Disability rights: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights>

Indigenous: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice>

14 Consumer issues and debts

Redfern Legal Centre provides fact sheets about money problems and consumer complaints.
<http://rlc.org.au/publications/money-problems-consumer-complaints>

Financial Rights Legal Centre provides a range of helpful fact sheets about debts, loans, insurance and financial services.

<http://financialrights.org.au/self-help-centre/get-started/>

Fair Trading NSW provides information for consumers.

<http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/>

The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre
Updated October 2018