

OPALS is an initiative supported by the Australian Government.



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My children are forcing me to change my will and are telling me I'm too old to make my own decisions.



My son is refusing to move out and is not contributing to household costs.



I want to buy a granny flat and move in with my daughter. How can I protect myself?

OPALS

The Older Persons Advocacy and Legal Service (OPALS) is a partnership service co-developed and co-delivered by Caxton Legal Centre Inc. (Caxton) and Metro South Hospital and Health Service.

Community-based services provided by OPALS are delivered by Caxton. It is a free and confidential service. OPALS can visit you within the hospital and follow up on initial meetings in your home or somewhere private and safe that suits you. Just ask the hospital social worker for further information or contact OPALS directly (details below).

Please contact us if you are over 65 or, if you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, over 50 years of age and:

- someone you trust is behaving badly towards you, or is not taking good care of you
- someone you trust has taken your money or property from you
- someone is forcing you to do things you do not want to do

- someone you trust is not listening to you in relation to your personal, health or financial decisions about your life. Examples are your decisions about where you live, who you see, what you wear, things you want to buy or do, choices about your health and how you spend your money or other things
- you are thinking about gifting or loaning money to someone you trust
- you are moving in with someone you trust
- you just want information around your future planning.

OUR SERVICE

There are two ways we can help you:

- We can give you legal advice, information and referrals about particular concerns you may have.
- We can provide social work support to help you with your personal matters as you consider your legal options.

LEGAL SERVICES

Our lawyers can provide you with legal information and advice options. We can also represent you at family mediations or in negotiations with other parties. At our discretion, we may be able to represent you in court proceedings.

You can contact the OPALS lawyers on 0408 376 117 or 0436 125 030 or (07) 3214 6333.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Our social worker, together with the lawyer, will assist you with personal matters such as engaging relevant community services, housing, counselling and other supports. As you will be working with both, a lawyer and a social worker, it is important that you understand that there will be regular communication between them about your case.

You can contact the OPALS community social worker on 0427 727 399 or (07) 3214 6333.

WHAT WE CAN DO

OPALS can help you with matters such as:

- domestic and family conflict or violence
- grandparents' rights or access to grandchildren
- property/granny flat matters
- concerns about loans, debt, guarantees and banking
- capacity and decision-making concerns
- tenancy or family living arrangements that have broken down
- misuse of enduring power of attorney (EPA), guardianship and administration. We will not draft your EPA but may assist with a revocation of an EPA in urgent circumstances.

The OPALS team can provide you with options or steps you can take based on your individual situation, and it is up to you if you take those steps. We will not act on your behalf or contact anyone without your permission. We will be guided by what you need and request.