

ATTACHMENT "HL-2"

This is the attachment marked "**HL-2**" referred to in the witness statement of Lucinda Adams and Antoinette Russo dated 15 July 2015.

Legal Health Check

Why did we create this document?

This document aims to help workers identify legal issues and we hope to work with you to develop the most appropriate method of dealing with these matters.

Justice Connect's Homeless Law may be able to assist clients by providing information, advice and/or representation in relation to certain legal issues. Where we cannot assist, we will attempt to assist workers with either (a) assisting the clients to resolve their own issues or (b) potentially referring matters to other legal services for assistance.

Why are legal issues important?

Legal issues can cause or contribute to homelessness. Also legal issues can prevent people from getting on with their lives. The Legal Australia-Wide Survey found that 50% of people who are homeless have three or more legal issues. It also identified that people who are homeless face considerable barriers accessing legal services. A holistic response from legal and non-legal services will providing greater access to justice for people experiencing homelessness.

What legal issues can Homeless Law assist with?

We can assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with civil law issues such as:

- Housing and tenancy matters (eg preventing evictions);
- Fines related to homelessness (eg public transport, or fines from sleeping in a car);
- Credit and debt issues (eg contact with debt collectors, phone bills, utilities, or payday loans);
- Guardianship and administration orders; and
- Some Centrelink matters.

How to use this document

1. Caseworkers complete this document with your clients;
2. Where possible try to identify and obtain any relevant client documents;
3. If the client has identified any issues we can assist with, fax this form back to Homeless Law on 03 8636 4455 or email it to homelesslaw@justiceconnect.org.au;
4. Homeless Law will contact the client directly to discuss how to address the issues raised in this document or to ask any questions in relation to your client's legal needs.

We **cannot** assist with family or criminal law matters but we may be able to assist with information and referrals.

For more information and assistance, please call us on our **free call number 1800 606 313*** or fax the **completed Legal Health Check to 8636 4455**.

* Note free call is only from landlines.

To: Homeless Law – intake team	From:
Fax: 03 8636 4455	Case worker:
Email: homelesslaw@justiceconnect.org.au	
Client's name:	Organisation:
Client's contact number:	Contact number:

CLIENT CONSENT

I consent for my worker to:

1. provide Homeless Law with my name and contact number;
2. provide Homeless Law with this survey relating to me; and
3. ask Homeless Law to contact me directly.

Signed (*client*): _____ Dated: _____

1. Brief client background

(This context can be relevant in many legal matters.)

Please tick the circumstances that apply to this client:

Dependent children		Homelessness		Non English speaking	
Mental health / Disability		Justice system history		Drug / Alcohol dependence	
Domestic violence		Age (young / older)		State care/child protection	

2. Tenancy problems

2.1. What type of housing do you live in?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Crisis/emergency accom | <input type="checkbox"/> | Friend/relative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Transitional housing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sleeping rough | <input type="checkbox"/> | Private rental |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sleeping in car | <input type="checkbox"/> | Own home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Couch surfing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify): |

2.2. Have you had difficulty with your housing?

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Difficulty paying rent/behind in rent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Repair issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Difficulties with neighbours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Goods left behind |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Compensation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify) _____ |

2.3. Have you been told to move out? **YES** **NO**

If yes, why?

2.4. Do you have to go to VCAT? **YES** **NO**

If yes, when?

3. Fines and infringements

- 3.1. Do you have any fines and infringements?* (If no, go to next issue) **YES** **NO**
- 3.2. How many fines do you have? (approximately) _____
- 3.3. What did you receive the fines for?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Begging | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not paying toll way fees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Littering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Speeding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Being drunk in public | <input type="checkbox"/> | Parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Offensive language | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other driving offences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Not having a valid ticket | <input type="checkbox"/> | Open court fines (fine for a criminal offence) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify) | | |
- 3.4. Do you have a payment plan for any of your fines? **YES** **NO**
- 3.5. Have you been to court about your fines? If so, when? **YES** **NO**
- 3.6. Have you been contacted by the sheriff about the fines? **YES** **NO**
- 3.7. Are you aware of any upcoming court dates in relation to fines? **YES** **NO**
- If so, when?

4. Money problems

- 4.1. Do you owe money to anyone? If yes, who? **YES** **NO**
- _____
- 4.2. Do you have any bills or debts you cannot pay? **YES** **NO**
- 4.3. Is anyone chasing or hassling you for money? **YES** **NO**
- 4.4. Have you received any court documents? **YES** **NO**
- 4.5. Has any action been taken in relation to the debt? **YES** **NO**
- 4.6. List the bills you have and payments you need to make:
(mobile phone, utility bills, bank loans, credit cards)
- _____
- _____

5. Guardianship & administration // mental health issues

- 5.1. Do you have a guardian or an administrator (does someone else make decisions about your money, health or living situation)? **YES** **NO**
- 5.2. Are you required to accept treatment for a mental health issue? **YES** **NO**
- 5.3. Would you like information or advice about this issue? **YES** **NO**

* If the client is unsure, it is extremely helpful if workers can assist to obtain a list of fines. For more details see:
<http://www.hlp.org.au/caseworkers/fines>

6. Centrelink problems

6.1. Do you receive Centrelink payments?

- Newstart Allowance
 Disability Support Pension
 Parenting payment – single/partnered
 Youth allowance
 Aged pension
 Other:

6.2. Have you had any problems dealing with Centrelink? **YES** **NO**

6.3. Has Centrelink cut you off from receiving payment? **YES** **NO**

If yes, when?

6.4. Has Centrelink said you have a debt, or owe them money? **YES** **NO**

6.5. Would you like information or advice about this issue? **YES** **NO**

7. Criminal law problems

7.1. Have you been in trouble with the police? **YES** **NO**

7.2. Was this issue resolved? (If yes, go to next issue) **YES** **NO**

7.3. If no, have you been charged with anything? **YES** **NO**

7.4. Have you been interviewed by the police? **YES** **NO**

7.5. Do you have to go to court? If yes, do you know the date? **YES** **NO**

7.6. Do you need legal assistance with this issue? **YES** **NO**

If yes, please note that Homeless Law cannot assist with criminal law issues. If the client has answered yes to any of these questions, consider contacting the Victoria Legal Aid advice line on 1300 792 387.

8. Family law problems

8.1. Do you have problems with an ex-partner? **YES** **NO**

If yes, who? (please provide name) _____

8.2. If yes, why?

- Violence
 Separation
 Children
 Property
 Other (please specify) _____

8.3. Has this issue been resolved? **YES** **NO**

8.4. If not, do you need a lawyer? **YES** **NO**

If yes, please note that Homeless Law cannot assist with family law issues. If the client has answered yes to any of these questions, consider contacting the Victoria Legal Aid advice line on 1300 792 387.

Please fax or email this legal health check through to Homeless Law on 8636 4455 or homelesslaw@justiceconnect.org.au if your client would like to know where to get assistance with any of the legal issues identified above.

We will contact the client directly, unless the worker specifies otherwise.