



Legal Services
Agency

Pokapū Ratonga Ture

If you haven't got a lawyer
a lawyer on duty
can help you at court
for free



HELPING PEOPLE ACCESS JUSTICE

A lawyer on duty can help you if you've been charged with an offence, and don't already have a lawyer. Ask at the reception at the court to see the lawyer on duty. If you are in police custody a lawyer on duty can help you.

The lawyer on duty can:

- tell you how serious the charge is
- apply for bail for you
- ask for the case to be put off (remanded)
- if you are pleading guilty, tell the judge about your personal circumstances and your point of view about the offence.

The lawyer on duty can also:

- tell you how you can get a lawyer for the rest of your case
- help you apply for legal aid if you can't afford to pay for a lawyer.

The lawyer on duty cannot:

- offer to be your legal aid lawyer for the rest of your case
- recommend another legal aid lawyer they know for the rest of your case.