



Legal Aid

Some parents may be eligible for free legal support called Legal Aid for educational law matters. Legal aid is the use of public funds to help to pay for legal advice and court or tribunal representation.

Financial means

In order to be eligible for legal aid, your financial circumstances must be assessed and fall within the limits set by the Legal Aid Agency, Civil Legal Advice (CLA). All educational law cases will be means-tested. You will be required to give information about your income, benefits, savings, property and shares and those of your partner.

To qualify for legal aid:

- your income (or combined income if you have a partner) shouldn't be more than £2,657 a month before tax
- your savings (or combined savings if you have a partner) shouldn't be more than £8,000

Before you contact the CLA, you must complete the online eligibility checker -

[Check Eligibility for Legal Aid](#)

Alternatively, you can ask a legal aid adviser to take on your case.

Your adviser will check whether you qualify for legal aid at **no cost** to you by asking about your problem and your finances. If you qualify, in some cases you may need to pay a contribution towards your legal aid.

[Find a Legal Aid Advisor](#)

How does an application for legal aid work?

You must contact Civil Legal Advice to be assessed for legal aid for educational matters. If you are believed to be eligible for legal aid, you will be allocated to a specialist education advisor.

The specialist will then assess your eligibility for legal aid. If your case can be funded by legal aid, the specialist will take further information and, if necessary, send you documentation to confirm your financial eligibility.

If the specialist, after assessing your documentation, is satisfied that you are eligible for legal aid, you can be assisted under the 'Legal Help' scheme with your case.

Your specialist will advise you on the matters that they can assist you with and any limitation of the scheme. Legal aid can help meet the costs of legal advice, family mediation and representation in a court or tribunal. You'll usually need to show that:

- your case is eligible for legal aid - the problem is serious - you cannot afford to pay for legal costs



What types of legal aid are there?

Legal aid will pay for legal assistance from solicitors. There are different types of legal aid including:

Legal Help, this is the first level of publically funded assistance and allows a solicitors firm to advise and assist you with your case. It does not fund the costs of representation at court.

Legal Representation, this is a higher level of funding and allows a solicitors firm to prepare your case and represent you in court or arrange for a barrister to represent you in court.

You may qualify for Legal Help at a SEND Tribunal, but not for Legal Representation as the role of the Tribunal Panel is to ensure that Parents, Carers and Young People get a 'fair hearing'.

You may be able to get support from Wirral SEND Partnership - please contact the service for further information.

What if I am not entitled to Legal Aid?

Please do not worry if you are not entitled to Legal Aid. Every single Local Authority in England must, by law, commission a free, impartial, legally-based Information, Advice & Support Service for Children, Young People and their Parents/Carers (SEND IASS).

We are your Local SEND IASS. Please contact the service for more information:

Wirral SEND Partnership

WIRED

0151 522 7990 (option 2)

email - ias@wired.me.uk