

# Conflict of Interest

## Here is some information about our Conflict of Interest Policy

Djirra is here to help you in any way we can. If you have been told that our Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Service, Djirra (Djirra) can't represent you, it may be because we have a conflict of interest.

### What is a conflict of interest?

A conflict of interest in the legal practice can happen sometimes.

It could be that Djirra, or a lawyer employed with us, has already advised or represented a client who is another party to your legal matter. In this case we would have a Conflict of Interest, because we would not be able to act in the best interests of both you and our client. Even if the client's matter is closed or was a long time ago, we will not be able to assist you.

It could also be that Djirra, or a lawyer now employed with us, has advised or represented a client in the past whose interests could be negatively affected if Djirra assists you now. In this case we would have a conflict of interest, because we have an obligation to keep the client's information confidential and a conflicting obligation to disclose all relevant information to you.

Another example could be that one of our staff, volunteers or Board members might have some personal involvement or interest in your legal matter that could compromise (or be seen to compromise) Djirra's ability to act in your best interests.

If we find that there is a conflict of interest we probably won't be able to tell you any of the details of how this conflict came about for confidentiality reasons.

These professional obligations do not just apply to Djirra. The law prevents all lawyers and Legal Services from advising or representing people where they have a conflict of interest.

The Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Service is a program of Djirra.

## What can I do if this happens to me?

If Djirra staff tell you that we cannot assist with your legal matter because of a 'Conflict of Interest', it does not mean that our legal team do not want to help you. It means that they can't because of our professional obligations.

If Djirra can't help you because of a conflict of interest, we are happy to contact another lawyer for you. We will introduce you and make sure they can give you the help you need. This is what is called a "warm referral".

Djirra will not leave you without legal support and we will keep trying until we find a lawyer who can help you. We can also refer you to the other services within Djirra such as case management and counselling.

Please contact Djirra on 1800 105 303 if you have any more questions.

Aboriginal  
Family Violence  
Legal Service



1800 105 303

[www.djirra.org.au](http://www.djirra.org.au)

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