

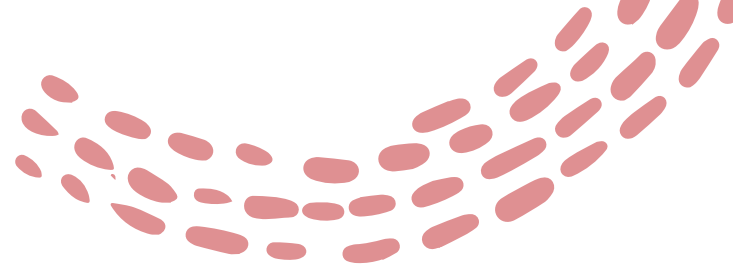
What if I have been treated unfairly by police?

If you feel you have been treated unfairly by police, you can make a complaint.

You can complete a Statement of Complaint to be returned to police. A complaint must be made within 6 months of the matter you are complaining about. Sometimes exceptions will be made to make a complaint after 6 months has passed.

You can also make a complaint against police to The Ombudsman or the Integrity Commission.

Tals can assist with the making of a Statement of Complaint.



DEALING WITH POLICE

TALS
TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL
LEGAL SERVICE

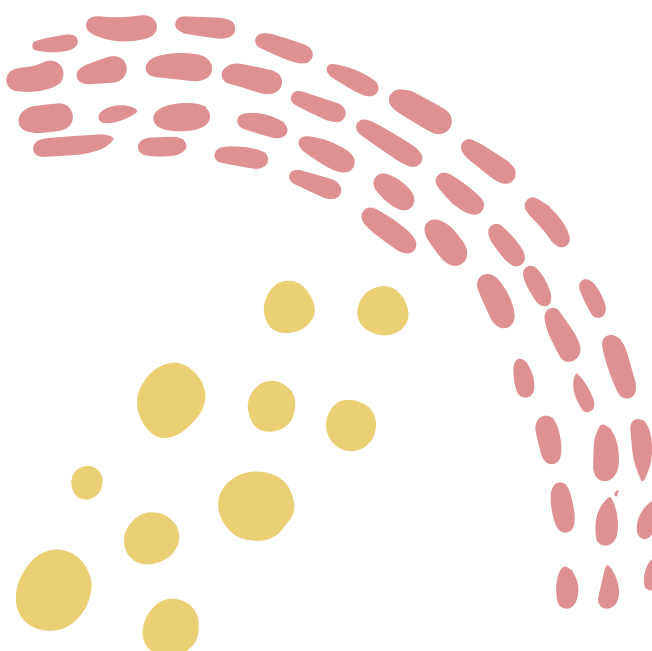
TALS
TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL
LEGAL SERVICE

What does TALS do?

Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service ('TALS') is a non-profit, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-based organisation in Tasmania. TALS provide culturally safe, holistic, and appropriate services that are inclusive and open to all Aboriginal Tasmanians.

The material in this brochure is intended as a general guide only. This publication should not be used to replace legal advice. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service does not accept any responsibility for any loss, damage or injury, financial or otherwise, suffered by any person acting on information contained in this publication or omitted from it.

FOR FREE LEGAL ADVICE
CONTACT TASMANIAN
ABORIGINAL LEGAL
SERVICE ON
1800 595 162



What information do I have to give police?

Police can ask you to give your name and address if they believe you have committed an offence or are about to commit an offence.

It is a crime not to provide these details to police, and it is also a crime to give incorrect details to police.

You must also give police your name and address if:

- You are driving a vehicle and you are asked to stop and show your licence
- You are on a bus
- You are in a licensed premise (you also need to tell them your age)
- You are in possession of drugs (you also need to tell the police where you got the drugs)

The police must have a reason to ask you for your details. You can ask the police why they want your details. It is an offence to refuse to give your name and address if police have a reason to ask for them.



What if police invite me to give an interview?

- You do not have to agree to participate in an interview and this cannot be held against you.
- If you chose to participate in an interview that is evidence the police can use in the future.
- How you behave during an interview is just as important as what you say.
- Giving a false statement is a crime and you could be charged.

If you are under 17

Police cannot formally question you without a parent or guardian unless you do not want them there.

If a parent or guardian is not available, police must arrange for an independent person to be with you during questioning.



What about casual conversations with police?

Any discussions you have with Police even if they say you are just chatting can be used in evidence against you.

Anything you say in the presence of Police or that they can hear can also be used as evidence against you.

When can police search me?

Police can search you if they reasonably think you:

- have drugs
- have explosives
- have guns or weapons like knives, or imitation weapons
- have graffiti tools

Police can also search anything you are carrying and your car.

