

# What is a limiting term?

Easy Read version



## What is a limiting term?

First edition published 2022

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This brochure is a general guide to the law. You should not rely on it as legal advice, and we recommend that you talk to a lawyer about your situation.

The information is correct at the time of printing, however it may change. For more information contact LawAccess NSW on **1300 888 529**.

The Council for Intellectual Disability (CID) made this Easy Read document.

Contact CID at [business@cid.org.au](mailto:business@cid.org.au)



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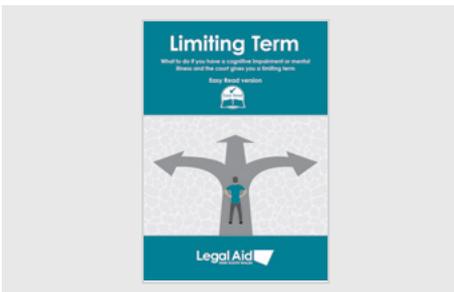
# About this book



You have been charged with a serious crime.



The court has given you a limiting term.



This book tells you about your limiting term.



This information can be hard to understand.



It is good to read this information with someone you trust.

# Limiting term order



The court says you have committed a serious crime.



You have a disability.



The court said you are unfit to be tried.

This means you do not understand what will happen at court.



The court has given you a limiting term.



You are a forensic patient.

You are told to go to the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

# Mental Health Review Tribunal



The Mental Health Review Tribunal is like a court.

We say **Tribunal** for short.



You will have a lawyer with you at the Tribunal.

You can also have a person you trust to support you.



You must follow rules.



You must meet with the Tribunal every 6 months.

# What the Tribunal decides



The Tribunal decides what care and treatment you need.



They decide where you will get the treatment.



The Tribunal will also decide where you live.

## Limiting term for people with mental illness



Different things might happen if you have a mental illness and you get a limiting term.



You might be in prison.



You might wait to go to a mental health hospital.



You might have to wait for more than 1 year.

# Limiting term for people with cognitive impairment



Different things might happen if you have a cognitive impairment and you get a limiting term.



You might stay in prison.



Or you might go to a place in prison for people with cognitive impairment.

This is called the **Additional Support Unit**.

You will get support there.



Or you might go to a mental health hospital.

# Conditional release



You can get conditional release if you have served enough time.



It must be safe for you and others for you to be in the community.



This means you will live in the community.

You will have support to stay safe and well.



You will have to follow rules like:

- Where you will live
- What support you get
- Do not drink alcohol or take drugs



If you break the rules you might be sent back to prison or hospital.

# Extension order



Before your limiting term ends someone from the government will look at your file.



They decide if you need to continue to be a forensic patient.



If they decide you need to still be a forensic patient they will ask the Supreme Court to give you an extension order.



If you get an extension order it means that the court thinks you are not safe to other people.



The extension order can be for up to 5 years.



The Tribunal will tell you where to live.



The Tribunal will keep monitoring you.



You must keep meeting the Tribunal every 6 months.



The government can look at your file again before the end of your extension order.

They might ask the Supreme Court to give you another extension order.

## What will happen to me?

You and your support person can write down what will happen to you.



### Who can help you

**You can get help from the Mental Health Advocacy Service.**

**MHAS for short.**

If you are a forensic patient you can call MHAS on **02 9745 4277**.

If you are in prison you can call MHAS using the inmates phone.

When you use the phone you will need to:

1. Enter your MIN number
2. Enter your Pin
3. Press #2 for Legal Aid
4. Ask for the MHAS





