

Reimbursement of lawyer or mediator fees

Conditions for subsidised legal aid 2025

What is legal aid ('toevoeging')?

In a legal aid case, the Dutch government pays part of the fees of your lawyer or mediator. You pay the other part yourself. This is called the own contribution. Below you can read when you are entitled to legal aid. And how much you have to pay yourself.

When are you entitled to legal aid?

You will receive legal aid if:

- you have a low income
- you do not have many assets, such as savings
- your case involves a minimum of € 500. Or a minimum of € 250 when your lawyer needs 3 hours or less for your case.
- you urgently require the assistance of a lawyer or mediator

How you can obtain legal aid

Do you meet these conditions? If so, we will refer you to a lawyer or mediator in your area. When you are referred to a lawyer, we will give you a letter stating what your case is about. This is called a diagnostic document ('diagnosedocument'). A referral to a mediator is possible only if the other party agrees. You can also engage a lawyer or mediator yourself. A referral is not mandatory.

Your lawyer or mediator will apply for legal aid for you. You'll be informed by the Legal Aid Board whether or not you will receive legal aid.

Your income should not be too high

The Legal Aid Board will check what your aggregate income is from 2 years ago. Your aggregate income is the income on which you pay income tax. In 2025, the Legal Aid Board will request your 2023 aggregate income from the Tax Office.

Your 2023 aggregate income should not exceed:

- € 33,200 if you live alone
- € 46,900 if you are cohabiting, married or in a registered partnership
- € 46,900 if you are a single parent of minor children

Was your 2023 aggregate income higher? If so, you are not entitled to legal aid.

You may not have too many assets

Do you have assets, such as savings? If so, in 2023 these assets must not exceed:

- € 33,748 if you live alone or are a single parent of minor children
- € 67,496 if you are cohabiting, married or in a registered partnership

Were your assets higher? If so, you are not entitled to legal aid.

Have your income or assets decreased?

If your income and/or assets have decreased since 2023, you can apply for a change in the reference year (peiljaarverlegging). This is possible if:

- your 2023 income and/or assets are too high to qualify for legal aid, but this is not the case in 2025. The Legal Aid Board will then check your 2025 income and assets. You may be entitled to legal aid. Or:
- your income in 2025 is at least 15% lower than in 2023. You may then qualify for a lower own contribution.

The form applying for a change in the reference year should be sent to the Legal Aid Board. You should do this within 6 weeks of receiving the decision on your entitlement to legal aid. Or give the form to your lawyer or mediator before applying for legal aid.

Check the back to see how much you have to pay yourself

How much will your own contribution be?

If you qualify for legal aid, you will usually also have to pay an own contribution. The higher your income, the higher your own contribution. It also depends on what kind of assistance you need. A mediator is cheaper than a lawyer.

You can find details of your own contribution below. For family related cases, such as divorce or alimony, the own contribution is usually higher than for other cases. If you are in statutory debt restructuring, receiving debt relief or are bankrupt, you often pay the lowest own contribution

Own contribution for a lawyer in 2025

Single	Your own contribution	Your own contribution for family related cases	Married, cohabiting or single parent
Your aggregate income on 2023			Your aggregate income in 2023
Up to € 23.600	€ 176	€ 355	Up to € 32.800
€ 23.601 -€ 24.300	€ 380	€ 444	€ 32.801 -€ 33.900
€ 24.301 -€ 25.800	€ 570	€ 635	€ 33.901 -€ 35.500
€ 25.801 -€ 27.900	€ 762	€ 825	€ 35.501 -€ 39.700
€ 27.901 -€ 33.200	€ 951	€ 985	€ 39.701 -€ 46.900
Above € 33.200	You are not entitled to legal aid	You are not entitled to legal aid	Above € 46.900

Lower own contribution (LAT)

Does your lawyer need up to 3 hours for your case? Then your lawyer can apply for Minor Aid. You will then pay a lower own contribution.

Single	Your own contribution	Your own contribution for family related cases	Married, cohabiting or single parent
Your aggregate income on 2023			Your aggregate income in 2023
up to € 24.300	€ 95	€ 132	up to € 33.900
€ 24.301 -€ 33.200	€ 159	€ 175	€ 33.901 -€ 46.900
Above € 33.200	You are not entitled to legal aid	You are not entitled to legal aid	Above € 46.900

Own contribution for a mediator in 2025

Single	Your own contribution	Married, cohabiting or single parent
Your aggregate income on 2023		Your aggregate income in 2023
up to € 23.600	€ 65	up to € 32.800
€ 23.601 -€ 33.200	€ 129	€ 32.801 -€ 46.900
Above € 33.200	You are not entitled to legal aid	Above € 46.900

Sometimes you have to repay the legal aid

Will you receive a considerable sum from your legal aid case? Then you will have to pay the lawyer or mediator yourself. Whether this applies depends on your situation:

- Are you married, living together or have a registered partner? Then you may receive a maximum of € 37,395 from your legal aid case.
- Do you live alone or are you a single parent of minor children? Then you may receive a maximum of € 18,697 50 from your legal aid case.

You will receive a letter from the Legal Aid Board if you are required to pay your lawyer or mediator yourself.