

Compensation for lawyer or mediator fees

Conditions for legal aid in 2026

What is legal aid?

With legal aid, the government pays part of the costs of your lawyer or mediator. You pay the other part yourself. This is called the personal 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 get legal aid if:

- your income is not too high
- you do not have too many assets, such as savings
- your case involves an amount of € 500 or more. Or an amount of € 250 if your lawyer requires 3 hours or less
- the help of a lawyer or mediator is necessary

How do you get legal aid?

If you meet these conditions, we will refer you to a lawyer or mediator in your area. When we refer you to a lawyer, you will be given a letter stating what your case is about. This is called a diagnostic document ('diagnosedocument'). We can also refer you to the Legal Aid Board ('Raad voor Rechtsbijstand'). The Board will then find one or more lawyers for you. You need to contact the lawyer yourself. The lawyer will decide whether to take up your case. We can only refer you to a mediator if the other party agrees. You can also find a lawyer or mediator yourself. You do not require a referral.

Your lawyer or mediator will apply for legal aid for you. The Legal Aid Board will inform you whether you will receive legal aid.

Your income should not be too high

The Legal Aid Board checks how high your total income is from 2 years ago. That is the total income on which you pay income tax. In 2026, the Board will request your 2024 total income from the tax authorities.

Your **2024** total income may not exceed:

- € 35,400 if you **currently** live alone **in 2026**
- € 50,000 if you are **currently** cohabiting, married or have a registered partner **in 2026**
- € 50,000 if you are **currently** a single parent of children under the age of 18 **in 2026**

If your total income was higher, you cannot get legal aid.

Your assets should not be worth too much

If you have assets such as savings, their value in **2024** should not exceed:

- € 36,952 if you **currently** live alone or are a single parent of children under the age of 18 **in 2026**
- € 73,904 if you are **currently** cohabiting, married or have a registered partner **in 2026**

If your assets were worth more, you cannot get legal aid.

If your income or assets have decreased

If your income and/or assets have decreased after 2024, you can apply for a 'recalculation' if:

- your 2024 income and/or assets are too high for legal aid but will be lower in 2026. The Legal Aid Board will then look at your income and assets in 2026. You may still be entitled to legal aid. Or:
- your income in 2026 is at least 15% lower than in 2024. You may then be able to get your personal contribution reduced.

Send the recalculation form to the Legal Aid Board. Do this within 6 weeks of getting the decision about your legal aid, or give the form to your lawyer or mediator before they apply for legal aid.

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

How much do you pay yourself?

If you get legal aid, you usually have to pay a personal contribution as well. The higher your income, the more you pay. It also depends on the kind of help you need. A mediator is cheaper than a lawyer.

You can find your personal contribution in the table below. For family matters such as divorce or alimony, your personal contribution is usually higher than for other matters. If you are in the Wsnp (Natural Persons Debt Restructuring Act), receiving debt relief or are bankrupt, you often pay the lowest personal contribution.

Personal contribution for a lawyer in 2026

You are currently single	Your personal contribution	Your personal contribution for family matters	You are currently married, cohabiting or a single parent
Your total income in 2024			Your total income in 2024
Up to € 25,200	€ 188	€ 379	Up to € 35,000
€ 25,201 - € 25,900	€ 406	€ 474	€ 35,001 - € 36,200
€ 25,901 - € 27,500	€ 609	€ 678	€ 36,201 - € 37,900
€ 27,501 - € 29,800	€ 813	€ 881	€ 37,901 - € 42,400
€ 29,801 - € 35,400	€ 1,015	€ 1,051	€ 42,401 - € 50,000
Exceeding € 35,400	You cannot get legal aid	You cannot get legal aid	Exceeding € 50,000

Lower personal contribution for a lawyer (LAT) in 2026

If your lawyer needs no more than 3 hours for your case, your lawyer will request Light Advice Legal Aid (LAT). You will then pay a lower personal contribution.

You are currently single	Your personal contribution	Your personal contribution for family matters	You are currently married, cohabiting or a single parent
Your total income in 2024			Your total income in 2024
Up to € 25,900	€ 101	€ 141	Up to € 36,200
€ 25,901 - € 35,400	€ 170	€ 187	€ 36,201 - € 50,000
Exceeding € 35,400	You cannot get legal aid	You cannot get legal aid	Exceeding € 50,000

Your personal contribution for a mediator in 2026

You are currently single	Your personal contribution	You are currently married, cohabiting or a single parent
Your total income in 2024		Your total income in 2024
Up to € 25,200	€ 69	Up to € 35,000
€ 25,201 - € 35,400	€ 138	€ 35,001 - € 50,000
Exceeding € 35,400	You cannot get legal aid	Exceeding € 50,000

Sometimes you have to pay back the legal aid

If you get a lot of money from your case, you will have to pay the lawyer or mediator yourself. Whether this applies depends on your situation:

- If you are currently married, cohabiting or have a registered partner, you are allowed to get a maximum of € 38,479 from your case.
- If you are currently single or are a single parent of children under the age of 18, you are allowed to get a maximum of € 19,239.50 from your case.

If you have to pay for the lawyer or mediator yourself, you will receive a letter from the Legal Aid Board.