

Appeals

What should I do if I want to appeal against the Court's judgment?

(a) Please approach the Bureau with at least 5 working days before the deadline to appeal. In addition, your appeal must have merits.

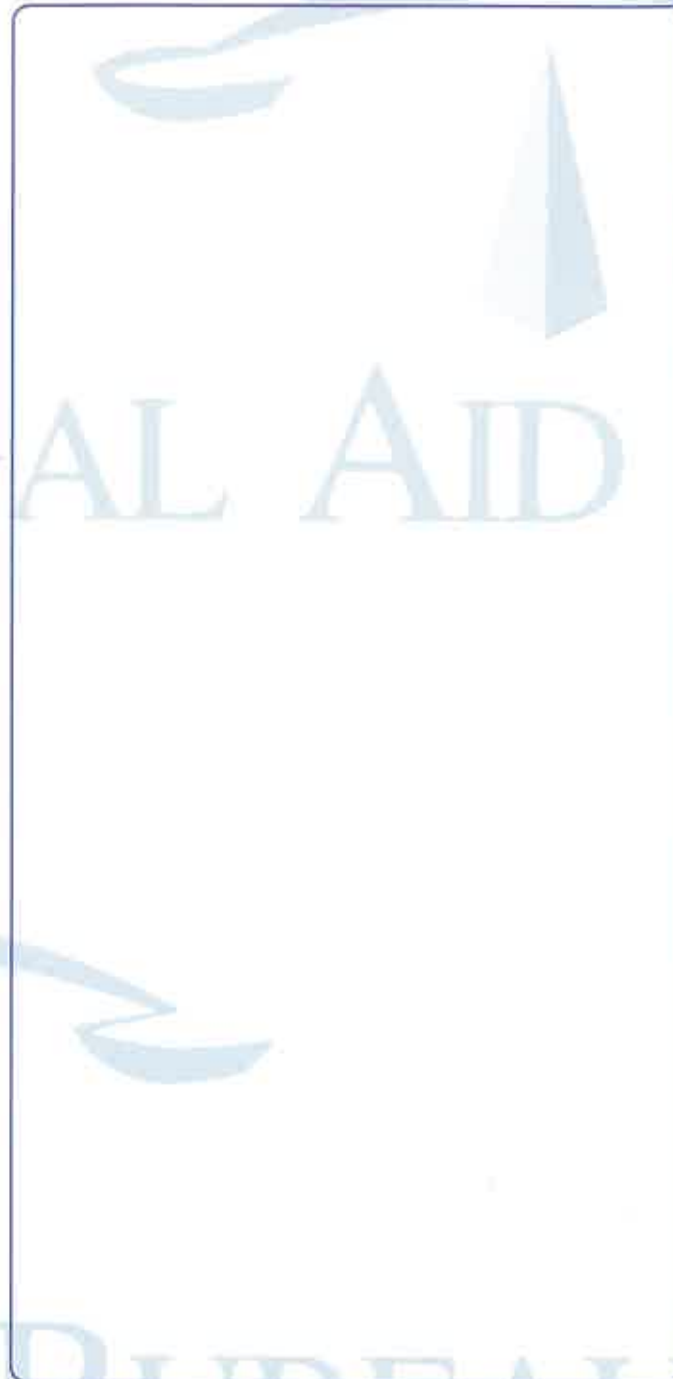
(b) The Bureau will inform you whether we can file and serve the Notice of Appeal for you. Please note that even if we file the Notice of Appeal, the final grant of legal aid for your appeal is still subject to approval by the Legal Aid Board.

(c) You will have to file and serve the Notice of Appeal personally if you do not meet the criteria (a) above.

If I file the Notice of Appeal personally, can I still apply for legal aid to be represented at the appeal?

Yes. However, if legal aid has not been granted by the Board and you are required to comply with Court timelines (eg. filing of Record of Appeal or Submissions), you will have to comply with the Court timelines personally.

Notes:



LEGAL AID BUREAU

WHAT
I SHOULD
KNOW WHEN
APPLYING FOR
LEGAL AID

General

How do I qualify for legal aid?

You must pass Means and Merits tests. For more information, please refer to www.lab.gov.sg.

If there are changes to my means, do I have to inform the Legal Aid Bureau?

Yes, if your means have increased, as this may affect your eligibility for legal aid.

Who decides whether my case has merits?

The Legal Aid Board (consisting of the Director of Legal Aid and at least 2 independent lawyers from private practice) decides.

Can I appeal against the Legal Aid Board's decision?

No. The Board's decision is final.

Can legal aid be withdrawn or cancelled after legal aid has been granted?

Yes, in certain situations. Common examples are if an Applicant insists on an unreasonable position contrary to advice, is unresponsive, becomes or is found to be above means, or is abusive (whether physically or verbally) towards the Bureau's staff or Assigned Solicitor. It can also be cancelled if he does not pay the contribution he is required to pay.

How can I help my case along?

You can help by:

- Providing all requested documents promptly;
- Attending your appointments punctually;
- Making a prior appointment before turning up at the Bureau;
- Updating the Bureau whenever there is a change in your contact details (ie. telephone, email, address);
- Informing the Bureau when you are going to be overseas or uncontactable for a period of more than 1 week.

Pending Court Case

What should I do if I have a pending Court case and I have just applied for legal aid?

You should attend all Court hearings personally until Legal Aid Bureau or an Assigned Solicitor confirms that a lawyer will attend on your behalf. You should inform the Court that you have applied for legal aid and request to adjourn the case. Whether the case is adjourned is entirely the decision of the Court.

Money Matters

Is legal aid free?

No. You may have to pay a contribution for legal aid. The amount will be determined at a later stage.

You will also have to pay all necessary disbursements (eg. costs of service, advertisements, expert reports, medical reports).

If you withdraw your application for legal aid, you may still be required to pay all outstanding contributions. Contributions paid are not refundable.

Can I keep all monies that I successfully recover from my legal proceedings?

No, you may have to pay a contribution to be determined by the Bureau. This will be deducted from the monies you recover. Therefore, it is important that you consider the contribution you will have to pay before agreeing to any settlement. If there is a separate amount for costs, the costs component will be paid to the Bureau.