

Guilty plea discounts

Charged with a criminal offence?

What happens now?

If you have been charged with a criminal offence, you need to get legal advice. You should contact your lawyer or call legal aid on 1300 366 424.

If you want to apply for legal aid you should do this as soon as possible.

If you are thinking about pleading guilty, you should get urgent legal advice. You should discuss the benefits of an early guilty plea with a lawyer as soon as possible. The sooner you tell the court about your plea, the greater the possible reduction in sentence.

Thinking of pleading guilty? Get legal advice first

If you plead guilty within 4 weeks of your first court date you may receive a substantial discount on your sentence. After 4 weeks the possible discount reduces.

A sentence can include:

- Immediate imprisonment
- A suspended term of imprisonment
- Home detention
- A fine
- A loss of driver's licence
- Community service
- A good behaviour bond.

Magistrates Court

From 1st court date up to 4 weeks after:	Not less than 4 weeks before trial:	Up to day of trial:
Discount up to 40%	Discount up to 30%	Discount up to 10%

District or Supreme Court

From 1st court date up to 4 weeks after:	More than 4 weeks after but before committal:	At committal for trial:	Up to arraignment	Up to day of trial:
Discount Serious indictable offence: 25%	Discount Serious indictable offence: 15%	Discount Serious indictable offence: 10%	Discount Serious indictable offence: 5%	Discount All indictable offences: 5%
Discount Other indictable offence: 35%	Discount Other indictable offence: 25%	Discount Other indictable offence: 15%	Discount Other indictable offence: 10%	

This information is general and not a substitute for legal advice. The Legal Services Commission provides free advice for most legal problems. 10/23