

## JULY 2015

*Legal Aid News* is your official regular communication from Legal Aid Services on all matters related to legal aid. *Legal Aid News* is generally published in the last week of every month.

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### **Paying Legal Aid Debts by Internet Banking**

Banks have updated and streamlined the internet banking payee details for Legal Aid Services.

The following are the details that a legally aided person, lawyer or other payer needs in order to make online payments to Legal Aid Services:

<b>Payee name (same for every bank):</b>	<b>Ministry of Justice - Legal Aid</b>
<b>Legal aid number (particulars):</b>	<b>e.g. 06W123456 or 02345678</b>
<b>Name and initials (code):</b>	<b>e.g. Doe J D</b>
<b>The third field (reference) stays blank.</b>	

To find a payee in internet banking, log on to your bank and go to "Pay a Bill" or something similar. Then search for payees by entering "Justice". This will bring up a list:

AUCKLAND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ASSOCIATION  
COURTS - MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - FINES  
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - LEGAL AID < [select this one!](#)

Payers can save Legal Aid as a payee, make a one-off payment and/or set up an arrangement in this way. Payers can use the same function where they have an Automatic Payment (AP) form from Legal Aid Services. Payers no longer need the Legal Aid Services' account number.

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## Family Cost Contribution Orders and Submissions

This is a reminder to family legal aid providers that Cost Contribution Orders are considered once the court has made a judgment on any application under the Care of Children Act, the Child Support Act or the Family Proceedings Act.

It is a provider's obligation to ensure that there is sufficient aid to deal with all activities and actions required under a legal aid grant. To best meet that obligation, providers should ensure that all matters, including those incidental to the proceedings (including submissions on Cost Contribution Orders where directed) are resolved before the final invoice is submitted.

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## Vulnerable Children Act — Child Protection Policy

The Vulnerable Children Act (Act) came into force on 1 July 2015. Part two of the Act requires prescribed State Services to adopt child protection policies. Certain people with whom those Services enter into contracts or funding arrangements must also adopt these policies.

We do not require legal aid providers to adopt a child protection policy. This is based on:

- Legal aid providers do not provide children's services as defined under the Act.
- The Provider Contract for Services does not cover the provision of 'children's services'.

While legal aid providers will not be required to have a child protection policy, we do recommend that legal aid lawyers are aware of the Act and how they can report child abuse or neglect if necessary. For further information you can go to this link on our website

<http://www.justice.govt.nz/services/childrens-action-plan>.

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## Queries?

If you have queries about any article in this newsletter, please contact [legalaidnews@justice.govt.nz](mailto:legalaidnews@justice.govt.nz).