

Claim farming in Queensland

This fact sheet explains what claim farming is for survivors of child abuse in Queensland. In Queensland, claim farming is against the law.

What is claim farming?

Claim farming is when someone (a 'claim farmer') contacts a survivor of abuse without their permission and encourages the survivor to make a civil claim for compensation. The claim farmer usually then gives the survivor's name and details to a law firm, which pays the claim farmer for the survivor's information.

Claim farming might involve:

- Survivors receiving a letter from a claim farming business or law firm they have never heard of.
- Survivors being contacted by a claim farmer and being asked to provide information about their abuse.
- Survivors receiving a costs agreement from a law firm that includes fees to be paid to a claim farmer. These fees can cost survivors thousands of dollars.

Survivors targeted by claim farmers may be left feeling harassed, pressured, confused and exploited.

What are the laws in Queensland?

In June 2022, Queensland made new laws to help stop claim farming.

The laws mean that in Queensland:

- It is against the law for anyone to contact a survivor without their permission and encourage them to make a civil claim for compensation.

This is against the law no matter how the contact occurs (e.g. survivors may be contacted individually or as part of a group, in person, by mail, by phone or online).

- It is against the law for anyone to pay another person for a survivor's details so they can contact the survivor about making a civil claim for compensation.

It is also against the law for anyone to be paid for a survivor's details.

This is against the law whether the payment is money or some other benefit (a gift or hospitality worth \$200 or less is allowed).

- Law firms need to sign certificates to confirm they have followed the new laws. If they don't, a person can decide to stop working with that law firm and the law firm won't charge them any fees.

How to get help if you are concerned about claim farming

Contact the Queensland Legal Services Commissioner

You can make a complaint about claim farming to the Queensland Legal Services Commission. You should provide details of what happened, including who you spoke to and how you were approached.

- Call: 07 3564 7726
(from Brisbane)
1300 655 754
(outside of Brisbane)
- Email: lsc@lsc.qld.gov.au
- Visit: www.lsc.qld.gov.au/for-the-public/claim-farming

How knowmore can help

knowmore is a free and independent legal service for survivors of child abuse.

knowmore lawyers can give survivors of child abuse the names of civil claims lawyers and help survivors to contact civil claims lawyers. This service is free.

knowmore can provide free and independent legal advice to survivors of child abuse about making a complaint about claim farming in Queensland. We can also give you advice if you have signed a costs agreement with a law firm after talking to a claim farmer.

- Visit: www.knowmore.org.au
- Free call: 1800 605 762
- Email: info@knowmore.org.au

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