

FACT SHEET

Self-Represented Defendants

Sexual Offence Expert Evidence Panel (the Panel)

Have you been charged with a sexual crime?

If you:

- are going to court without a lawyer
- have a mental health condition or disability
- struggle to communicate with people, and
- your matter is being heard in a court in either Brisbane or Townsville

you may be able to have an expert from the Sexual Offence Expert Evidence Panel (the Panel) speak to the Judge and jury about how your mental health or disability impacts your ability to understand what it means to ask for permission or agreement.

We call this **consent**.

About the Panel

What is it?



The Panel is a list of
psychiatrists, psychologists and other qualified people.



They understand how mental health and disability might impact you being able to understand what consent is.



We call them **experts**.

What does an expert do?



Talk to you to see if communicating with people is difficult for you and if you understand when someone gives consent.

This is called an **assessment**.



The expert will give you **a report** about you; and if you want, they can speak to the judge and jury in court about it.



This is called **giving evidence**.

What Next?

How do I meet with an expert?



You can fill out a **form**.

This is called an **application**.



You might need someone to help you.

Where do I find the application?



You can do the application from your computer. Go to:

<https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/services/sexual-offence-expert-evidence-panel>

Do I have to use the report?

No

It is **your decision** if you want the judge and jury to hear from the expert.

Do I have to pay for the report?



If you are going to court in Brisbane or Townsville the cost of the expert might be **FREE**.

Please call the Program Team to see if you can use this service.



Questions?

What if I have more questions?

You can contact the **Program Team** and ask questions using the details at the bottom of this page.



The Program Team work at the Court. It is their job to look at the applications and match them with experts from the Panel.

Can I go online to find out more?



You can find out more about The Panel, Experts and the Program Team online:

<https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/services/sexual-offence-expert-evidence-panel>

Contact the Program Team



(07) 3564 7748



1800 555 660



SDLCS.EEP@justice.qld.gov.au



<https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/services/sexual-offence-expert-evidence-panel>



Business Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

