

SPECIAL RULES FOR LAWYERS?

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Do you have a lawyer? Have you told him things you wouldn't want him telling anyone else?

You should be aware that your lawyer is under a special obligation which protects you and your rights and any conversations you have with your lawyer or documents you prepare with your lawyer.

The rule is that anything you say to your lawyer is "privileged". It is privileged in the sense that your lawyer is not obliged and not allowed to disclose the content of conversations you have had with them or release documents you have prepared with them.

The privilege belongs to you.

You are allowed to and entitled to relinquish the privilege over the communications but no one else may (except for some very specific exemptions).

There are a number of public policy reasons for this rule, including, so that you can consult your lawyer with full and frank disclosure of all matters relating to your affairs without the fear that the frankness may then cause problems for your lawyer or for you. Your lawyer is then free to help you with solutions to your problems and provide sound advice.

It is a vital part of our justice system.

This is general information only, and does not constitute specific legal advice. If you would like further information in relation to this matter or other legal matters please contact our office at reception@hhg.com.au.

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