



## State-funded legal aid: when the state pays your legal fees



You may appoint a lawyer, registered in a specific list, to represent you in civil, criminal, administrative, accounting and tax proceedings and in voluntary jurisdiction procedures, when your reasons are not manifestly unfounded.

Your taxable annual income resulting from your last statement must not exceeding € 12838,01. If you live with other family members, your income is the sum of the income earned by all members of the family.

Only in the criminal field the income limit is increased by  $\in$  1,032.91 for each of the family members. Exception: Only your income is taken into account when personality rights are the subject of the case, that is, in processes where your interests conflict with those of other partners (for example, separation and divorce).

Examples of what is included in the taxable annual income: salary, pension, citizenship income, separation or divorce allowance in favour of the spouse, interest on current account, winnings, income from illegal activities,

## DANGER

If you declare the false or omit to indicate certain incomes you commit a crime that results in the penalty of imprisonment from one to five years and a fine from € 309.87 to € 1,549.37. The sentence involves the revocation, with retroactive effect, and the recovery of the sums paid by the State.

The following may apply for legal aid:

- Italian citizens,
- foreign nationals who are legally resident in the country,
- stateless persons,
- entities or associations which are not profitmaking and do not engage in an economic activity.



The application must be submitted on free paper to the Secretariat of the Council of the Bar Association territorially competent. Only in criminal matters must the application be filed at the registry of the magistrate before whom the proceedings are pending.

The application shall be accompanied by:

- a photocopy of your valid identity document, a photocopy of your tax number, a copy of your residence permit (if you are a non-EU citizen),
- the certificate of family status,
- self-certification of income (and certification by the consular authority in the case of a non-EU person),
- a copy of the documents necessary to assess the merits of the application.