

Youth Justice Bail After-hours Service

Information for legal representatives

The Youth Justice Bail After-hours Service (YJBAS) is a state-wide, after-hours bail assessment and advice service. It is delivered by the Youth Justice division within the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS). YJBAS supports after-hours bail decision makers. This includes both Bail Justices and the Weekend Online Remand Court (WORC).

From **30 April 2023** YJBAS replaces the Central After Hours Assessment and Bail Placement Service (CAHABPS) which was previously delivered by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

What does YJBAS do?

YJBAS supports informed decision-making by bail decision makers, consistent with the key principles of diversion and minimum intervention that underpin the [Children, Youth and Families Act 2005](#).

YJBAS provides a single point of contact for police who are seeking to remand a young person after-hours. Once contacted by police, YJBAS conducts bail assessments with young people and provides advice to both Bail Justices and Magistrates at the WORC.

The YJBAS team will then provide a recommendation to the bail decision maker regarding the young person's suitability to be supported by the Youth Justice bail service. The assessment template is the same as a bail suitability assessment conducted by Youth Justice during business hours.

YJBAS is a bail assessment and advice service only and does not provide case management. If required, YJBAS will conduct a handover with the YJ Community team for the young person's allocation to a case manager.

Before an assessment

Prior to an assessment, the YJBS team will:

- contact the young person and check on their health, wellbeing and safety
- assess if young person can engage in assessment and seek their consent
- ensure the young person understands the role YJBAS has in the bail/court hearing process.
- notify Child Protection if the young person has Child Protection involvement
- offer to contact the young person's family/carer and discuss current needs and possible additional supports required
- contact Victoria Legal Aid or the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service if required.

After-hours assessment process

1. Victoria Police / Magistrate / Legal Representative refers the young person to YJBAS for assessment.
2. YJBAS will contact the young person, either in person at the police station / Parkville or remotely via video call or phone, to conduct a bail suitability assessment.



3. YJBAS will monitor that compulsory referrals have already been made by Victoria Police, including to VALS if the young person is Aboriginal, and to an Independent Third Person if the young person has a disability.
4. YJBAS Worker provides a report and advice to the bail decision maker, outlining the recommendation.
5. YJBAS Worker attends Bail Justice hearing or WORC hearing. They can provide verbal advice during the hearing if requested.
6. YJBAS Worker records outcome of hearing and commences handover steps to YJ Community/Custody.

Recommendations

The YJBAS will make one of the following recommendations to the bail decision maker following an assessment:

1	<p>Not suitable for YJ Bail Service - low risk</p> <p><i>Young person is assessed as low risk and does not require supervision in the community.</i></p>
2	<p>Suitable for YJ Bail Service</p>
3	<p>Not suitable for YJ Bail Service - high risk</p> <p><i>Young person is assessed as high risk and cannot be suitably supervised in the community.</i></p>

Who can contact YJBAS?

Victoria Police must contact the YJBAS if they are considering remanding a young person after-hours

A young person appearing at the WORC **may also be referred to YJBAS by a legal representative** or Magistrate.

Young people, their family, carers, or support workers can contact YJBAS for support and advice regarding the police remand process.

YJBAS and legal representatives

The YJBAS team will work with legal representatives at the WORC, following existing processes. Outside of WORC operating hours, the YJBAS will encourage young people to contact the Victoria Legal Aid after-hours advice line.

The YJBAS team will also provide handover notes for the allocated Youth Justice community case manager to follow up with the legal representative the next business day if further discussion is required.

YJBAS Contact Details

To refer a young person for a YJBAS bail assessment after hours please contact the team at:

- **Phone:** **1300 313 381**
- **Email:** yjbas@justice.vic.gov.au

Hours of Operation:

- Monday to Friday: 5.00pm - 3.00am
- Saturday & Sunday: 8.00am - 3.00am
- Public holidays: 8.00am - 3.00am

During normal business, please contact your [local youth justice unit](#).