

## **CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS & RECORDS**

A conviction for a criminal offence can have severe and long lasting consequences for you and for your family.

A conviction even for a minor offence or driving offence can impact on your current and future employment opportunities. Your career can be determined by the court's recording of a criminal conviction. Many employers are prohibited from hiring employees who have criminal convictions. This is the case for many private companies and government agencies. Employers regularly perform a criminal records check as pat of the application process and choose not to hire job applicants who have a criminal conviction. Even if you are an existing employee an employers may terminate employment upon learning of the conviction. You may be obligated by your employment contract to disclose that you have been charged with a crime and that a conviction was recorded.

A conviction will almost certainly effect your ability to obtain a Working With Children Check (WWCC). The Working With Children Check (WWCC) is a requirement for anyone who works or volunteers in child-related work in NSW. It involves a National Police Check (criminal history record check).

Having a criminal conviction can also have consequence upon your housing and ability to stay in your home. Landlords can perform criminal records checks before deciding to lease a house to an applicant. Tenants in public housing also may encounter difficulties because of criminal convictions.

Having a criminal conviction can also preclude you from travelling outside of Australia. It can make it difficult to adopt or foster children. A conviction can prevent you from owning a firearms license or security license. It can make it difficult to get insurance or obtain finance.

It is very important that you speak to an experienced lawyer who specialises in criminal law before you are required to attend court. You need to know your rights and the options which are available to you. You are more likely to receive a good outcome if you obtain expert legal advice at an early stage in criminal proceedings.

Lamont Law can advise you and can assist you in your decision to plead not guilty and defend the charge, or alternatively to plead guilty to the offence.

We can help you through the criminal justice system. Our lawyers are regularly successful in having charges downgraded or dropped. We are frequently successful at obtaining no convictions for our clients.

If you are currently under investigation by the police for a suspected offence, if you have been requested to give an interview to police, if you you been refused bail by the police or by the court, we can help you.