



Why Do I Need to Read a Contract Before Signing It?

As obvious as it sounds, you must read a contract before you sign it. People don't read a contract for many reasons:

- They don't think it is important
- They don't have the time
- They rely on what the other party has told them is in the contract
- They don't understand the language used in the contract

If you do not know what the contract says, you cannot know what your obligations and responsibilities are. This creates a real risk of you not complying with the contract. This could leave you exposed to incurring further expense, having the contract terminated and/or having legal proceedings brought against you. You will generally not be able to rely on a failure to read the contract to avoid legal liability.

Some key tips to follow when entering into a contract are:

- Ask to take the contract away with you to give you time to read it in full
- Seek legal advice about the contract so everything can be carefully explained to you

For further information, contact the Commercial Litigation Team at Watkins Tapsell on (02) 9521 6000.



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