

# Pawning things

## What do I need to know?

### How does a pawn operate?

A pawn is where a pawnbroker or second hand dealer will give you a loan against something of value which you own.

The pawnbroker or second-hand dealer assesses how much your things are worth before deciding how much money they will give you.

### What type of things can I pawn?

You can pawn anything of value which you own that a pawnbroker is willing to accept for the pawn contract.

You cannot pawn anything you do not own or that you are renting or leasing from someone else. If you have pawned something you do not own, get immediate legal advice.

### How do I get my goods back?

You can get your things back by paying the amount needed to reclaim the goods you have pawned. This amount is set out in your contract.

Does a pawnbroker or second hand dealer have to assess my ability to repay the money they give me?

No, they are lending the money by taking security against the things you have pawned with them.

### What if I don't pay?

If you don't make payments under the pawn contract or the payments needed to reclaim the things the company has under the contract, then the company can sell the goods to recover their money.

### Will my credit report be affected if I don't make payments?

Your credit report is not affected.

### If I pawn things, can I get financial hardship help like I do with other lenders?

Under the law you can't get financial hardship help under a pawn broking contract because pawn brokers and second-hand dealers do not come under the National Consumer Credit Law, except if the contract was unjust.

But that does not stop you from asking them for help if you are in financial trouble.

### How can I get help if I have a problem with one of these contracts?

You can get help by calling:

- a financial counsellor on 1800 007 007
- Legal Aid Queensland on 1300 65 11 88
- The Office of Fair Trading on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visiting: <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/your-rights/consumer-rights-complaints-and-scams/make-a-consumer-complaint>.

**For more information about our services call 1300 65 11 88 or visit [legalaid.qld.gov.au](http://legalaid.qld.gov.au)**

**or phone our Indigenous Hotline on 1300 650 143.**

**BRISBANE** 44 Herschel St, 4000

**WOODRIDGE** 1st Floor, Woodridge Place, Cnr Ewing Rd & Carmody St, 4114

