



About the F8 application form

General protections application involving dismissal

About general protections disputes involving dismissal

The general protections provisions of the [Fair Work Act 2009](#) aim to protect workplace rights and freedom of association and to provide protection from workplace discrimination.

An employee may allege that their employer contravened one or more of the general protections provisions in dismissing the employee from their employment. In some circumstances, a demotion, a forced resignation or constructive dismissal may be considered a dismissal. The meaning of **dismissed** can be found at s.386 of the [Fair Work Act 2009](#).

If you make such a claim, the Fair Work Commission (Commission) will try to assist the parties to settle the dispute by conducting a conference. Sometimes the employer may argue that you are not eligible to make a general protections application involving dismissal. This is called a jurisdictional objection. If this occurs, the Commission will determine the jurisdictional objection first. If the objection is dismissed, the Commission will then conduct a conference.

If the dispute remains unresolved after the conference, the Commission will issue a certificate. You may then choose to make a general protections court application within 14 calendar days of the date the certificate is issued, or such further time as the court allows. Alternatively, if both parties to the dispute consent, you can apply for the Commission to conduct a consent arbitration which will determine the matter, subject to any appeal. An application for consent arbitration needs to be lodged with the Commission within 14 calendar days of the date the certificate is issued.

If the parties have notified the Commission that they consent to arbitration, you cannot also make a general protections court application. If you are pursuing a general protections court application, the parties cannot also seek to have the Commission arbitrate the matter.

For more information see the Commission's [General protections guides](#) and [General Protections Benchbook](#).

Who can use this form

Use this form if you:

- were an employee **and**
- have been dismissed **and**
- believe that there has been a breach of the general protections provisions that apply to you.

You should also use this form if you are an industrial association making an application on behalf of an employee member who has been dismissed and believe that there has been a breach of the general protections provisions that apply to them.

Note 1: If you believe there has been a breach of the general protections provisions that apply to you but you have not been dismissed, you should lodge your application using the Form F8C (or you may make an application directly to a court). You cannot make a general protections dismissal application.

Note 2: If you were dismissed but you do not allege a contravention of the general protections provisions, you may be eligible to make another type of dismissal application. You cannot make a general protections dismissal application. See [Types of dismissal and termination](#) for more information.

Lodging your completed form

1. **Lodge your application and any supporting documents** with the Commission within **21 calendar days** after your dismissal took effect. You can lodge your application online using the Commission's [Online Lodgment Service \(OLS\)](#) or by email, post or in person at the [Commission's office](#) in your state or territory.

Note: The Commission will provide a copy of your application and any other documents you lodge with the application (except the Fee Waiver form, where relevant) to the Respondent (your former employer).

2. **Pay your application fee** at the same time as you lodge your application. The current application fee is available on the [Lodge an application](#) page on the Commission's website.

If paying the fee would cause you to suffer serious hardship, you can apply to have the fee waived. You must apply to have the fee waived at the same time as you lodge your application. Download the [Fee Waiver form](#) from the Commission's website.

Where to get help

Commission staff & resources

Commission staff cannot provide legal advice. However, staff can give you information on:

- Commission processes
- how to make an application to the Commission
- how to fill out forms
- where to find useful documents such as legislation and decisions
- other organisations that may be able to assist you.

The Commission's website www.fwc.gov.au also contains a range of information that may assist.

Throughout this form



This icon appears throughout the form. It indicates information to help you complete the form.

Legal or other representation

Representation is where another person (such as a lawyer or paid agent, union official, family member or friend) speaks or acts on your behalf, or assists you in certain other ways in relation to your matter. There is no requirement for you to be represented at the Commission.

You will need permission from the Commission Member dealing with your matter if you wish to be represented by a lawyer or paid agent at a conference or a hearing, unless the lawyer or paid agent is an employee or officer of a union or a peak union body that is representing you. If you want to seek permission, you must lodge a Form F53 – Notice that a person: (a) has a lawyer or paid agent; or (b) will seek permission for lawyer or paid agent to participate in a conference or hearing.

You do not need permission to have a lawyer or paid agent prepare and lodge this application with the Commission.

For more information about representation by lawyers and paid agents, see s.596 of the *Fair Work Act 2009*, rules 11, 12 and 12A of the Fair Work Commission Rules 2013 and the Commission's [practice note on representation by lawyers and paid agents](#).

Glossary of common terms

Applicant – This is the person or organisation that is making an application.

Jurisdictional objection – This is a type of objection a Respondent can raise to an application. A Respondent can make this kind of objection if they think that the Commission, for a technical or legal reason, cannot hear the matter.

Lawyer – This is a person who is admitted to the legal profession by a Supreme Court of a State or Territory.

Paid agent – in relation to a matter before the Commission, is an agent (other than a bargaining representative) who charges or receives a fee to represent a person in the matter.

Party – A party is an Applicant, Respondent or another person or organisation involved in a matter or case that is brought to the Commission.

Respondent – The person or organisation responding to an application made by an Applicant.

Service – Serving a document means giving a copy of the document to a person or organisation, usually to the other party to the matter. You can serve a document in a number of ways, including by email, express or registered post, or in person. Parts 7 and 8 of the Fair Work Commission Rules 2013 deal with service.

Privacy

The Commission collects the information (including personal information) provided to it in this form in order to deal with the general protections application involving dismissal. The information will be included on the case file, and the Commission may disclose the information to the other parties to this matter and to other persons. For more details of the Commission's collection, use and disclosure of this information, please see the [Privacy notice](#) for this form, or ask for a hard copy to be provided to you.



Remove this cover sheet and keep it for future reference – it contains useful information.

Form F8 – General protections application involving dismissal

[Fair Work Act 2009](#), s.365

This is an application for the Fair Work Commission (Commission) to deal with a general protections dispute involving dismissal under Part 3-1 of the [Fair Work Act 2009](#).

The Applicant (you)



These are the details of the person who has been dismissed. Make sure you provide a telephone number for the conciliation conference.

If the Applicant is under 18 years, the Commission encourages them to have a parent or guardian, or a legal representative, involved. We can provide further information about how to find legal services.

Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other please specify:		
First name(s)			
Surname			
Postal address			
Suburb			
State or territory		Postcode	
Phone number			
Mobile number			
Email address			
Is the Applicant under 18 years of age?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

Note: If you provide a mobile number the Commission may send reminders to you via SMS.

If the Applicant is an industrial association please also provide the following information



If the Applicant is an industrial association, note that 'you' and 'your' in this form refers to the employee whose industrial interests the Applicant is entitled to represent.

Name of association	
Contact person	

Phone number	
Email address	

How would you prefer us to communicate with you?

- Email (you will need to make sure you check your email account regularly)
- Post

Do you need an interpreter?



If you have trouble accessing this information, please contact us. We can arrange to provide it in another format. You can find information about [help for non-English speakers](#) on our website.

- Yes – Specify language
- No

Do you need any special assistance at the hearing or conference (eg a hearing loop)?

- Yes – Please specify the assistance required
- No

Do you have a representative?



A representative is a person or organisation who is representing you. This might be a lawyer or paid agent, a union or a family member or friend. There is no requirement to have a representative.

- Yes – Provide representative’s details below
- No

Your representative



These are the details of the person or organisation who is representing you (if any).

Name of person			
Firm, union or company			
Postal address			
Suburb			
State or territory		Postcode	

Phone number	
Email address	

Is your representative a lawyer or paid agent?

Yes

No

The Respondent (the employer)



These are the details of the employer that dismissed you.

You should provide the legal name of the employer. The legal name is not the trading name or business name of the employer. The employer will usually be a person or a company (with a name ending in Pty Ltd or Ltd), or in some instances a partnership, an incorporated association, or a public sector employer. Your pay slips, PAYG payment summary, appointment letter or employment contract should give the legal name of the employer.

Note that the Commission will send a copy of your application to the contact person you name below.

Legal name of employer			
Employer's ACN (if a company)			
ABN			
Contact person			
Postal address			
Suburb			
State or territory		Postcode	
Phone number			
Email address			

1. General protections dismissal

1.1 What date did you begin working for the employer?

1.2 What date were you notified of your dismissal?

1.3 What date did your dismissal take effect?

1.4 Are you making this application within 21 calendar days of your dismissal taking effect?

Yes

No



For information about the timeframe for lodgment of general protections applications involving dismissal, see s.366(1) of the [Fair Work Act 2009](#).

If you answered **No** – Explain the reason for the delay, including any steps you have taken to dispute the dismissal or any other reason you think the Commission should take into account in considering whether to accept your application out of time.

1.5 To the best of your knowledge, how many employees were employed in your workplace when you were dismissed?

1-14

15-49

50-99

100 or more

I don't know

1.6 Have you made another claim to the Commission or to any other organisation regarding your dismissal (eg an unfair dismissal application)?



The Commission cannot consider your general protections application involving dismissal if you have made another claim in relation to your dismissal, such as an unfair dismissal application or a complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission. If you answer 'Yes' to this question, you will need to decide which claim is the most appropriate one. If you're unsure which is the best option for you, read the **where to get help** section in the cover sheet of this form.

Yes

No

2. Remedy

2.1 What outcome are you seeking by lodging this application?

3. Alleged contravention

3.1 Describe the actions of the employer, including any reasons given for your dismissal, that have led you to make this application.

Using numbered paragraphs, describe the relevant facts and circumstances. Specify the reason(s), if any, given by the employer for your dismissal. Attach any letter of dismissal and/or separation certificate given to you by the employer. Note that the Commission will send copies of any documents you provide to the employer. Attach extra pages if necessary.

3.2 Do you allege that you were dismissed in contravention of the general protections provisions in Part 3-1 of the Fair Work Act 2009?

 A general protections application involving dismissal can only be made if you have been dismissed and you allege your dismissal was in contravention of the general protections provisions in Part 3-1 of the [Fair Work Act 2009](#). If you answer 'No' to this question, you cannot make this application.

Yes [Go to question 3.3]

No [You cannot make this application. See page ii of this form for more information]

3.3 Which section(s) of the [Fair Work Act 2009](#) did the employer contravene when they dismissed you?

 A general protections dismissal application should only be made if your employer dismissed you **because** you have the protections described in one or more sections of the [Fair Work Act 2009](#) listed below. See the [General Protections Benchbook](#) for information about each of the protections below.

Division 3 – Workplace rights

s.340 Protection

s.343 Coercion

Division 4 – Industrial activities

s.346 Protection

s.348 Coercion

Division 5 – Other protections

s.351 Discrimination

Please specify the attribute as set out in s.351(1):

s.352 Temporary absence – illness or injury

Division 6 – Sham arrangements

s.358 Dismissing to engage as an independent contractor

3.4 Explain how the actions you have described in question 3.1 have contravened the section(s) of the Fair Work Act 2009 you identified in question 3.3.

Attach extra pages if necessary.

Disclosure of information

The Commission will provide a copy of this application and any attachments to the other parties in this matter. This includes:

- the employer
- any legal representatives.

Consent to contact by researchers



The Commission undertakes research with participants in general protections dismissal matters to ensure a high quality process. Some research may be undertaken by external providers on behalf of the Commission.

Do you consent to the contact details provided on page 1 of this form being provided to an external provider of research services for the sole purpose of inviting you to participate in research?

Yes

No

Signature



If you are completing this form electronically and you do not have an electronic signature you can attach, it is sufficient to type your name in the signature field. You must still complete all the fields below.

Signature	
Name	
Capacity/ Position	
Date	

If you are not the Applicant and are completing and signing this form on the Applicant's behalf, include an explanation of your authority to do so in the Capacity/Position section above.

PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS

Application fee

Your name:

The current application fee is available on the [Lodge an application](#) page on the Commission's website www.fwc.gov.au.

The [Fair Work Act 2009](#) requires a fee to be paid on lodgment of this application with the Commission. Where applicable, any refund of the application fee will be forwarded by cheque to you at the address provided on this application form.

Financial hardship

If paying the fee would cause you to suffer serious hardship, you can apply to have the fee waived. If you are applying to have the fee waived you must complete and lodge the Form F80 – Waiver of application fee (the Fee Waiver form) at the same time as you lodge your application. Note that the Commission will not forward a copy of the Fee Waiver form to the employer. The [Fee Waiver form](#) can be downloaded from the Commission's website www.fwc.gov.au.

Payment options

I have completed the Fee Waiver form and have attached it to my application.

I am paying by cash – Cash payments can only be made in person at one of the Fair Work Commission offices. Payment should be made at the same time as the application is lodged.

I have attached a cheque or money order to this application – Cheques and money orders should be made payable to the Collector of Public Monies, FWC. Please note that the cheque or money order must be for the exact amount of the application fee; if it is not it may cause the processing of your application to be delayed.

I am paying by credit card – Please see below:

If paying by credit card, please provide the payer's details below and a Commission officer will contact the payer within 3 business days from the date of lodgment.

Payer details

Who is making the payment?

You Your representative Other – Please complete the details

Full name of payer			
Postal address			
Phone number		Email address	

PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS