

For more details relating to financial eligibility limits for legal aid, scale of contribution and the Director of Legal Aid's first charge, readers are requested to refer to the "Financial Information Sheet".

Information contained in this sheet must be read together with other legal aid publications where appropriate.

Examples of Means Tests for Applications under Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme (OLAS)

(For reference only)

Example 2 – Contribution Payable

Assuming the applicant aged 40 and the personal allowance for the applicant is \$7,510 and assuming the financial eligibility limit for OLAS is \$440,800

<i>Financial position of applicant</i>	
<i>Monthly income (gross)</i>	<i>\$38,000</i>
<i>Monthly contribution to Mandatory Provident Fund</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>
<i>Monthly rental payment</i>	<i>\$18,000</i>
<i>Salaries tax for previous year</i>	<i>\$34,020</i>
<i>Savings account credit balance</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>

Means test calculation

Monthly disposable income

$$\begin{aligned} &= \$38,000 \text{ (gross monthly income)} - \$1,500 \text{ (contribution to MPF)} - \$7,510 \\ &\quad \text{(personal allowance for applicant)} - \$18,000 \text{ (rent)} - \$2,835 \text{ (salaries tax on a} \\ &\quad \text{monthly basis)} \\ &= \$8,155 \end{aligned}$$

Disposable capital = \$50,000

Total financial resources

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{Monthly disposable income} \times 12 + \text{disposable capital} \\ &= \$8,155 \times 12 + \$50,000 \\ &= \$147,860 \end{aligned}$$

Assessment

As the applicant's financial resources lie between \$110,200.01 and \$165,300, which is within the financial eligibility limit of OLAS, he passes the means test. However, he is required to pay a contribution.

Means Test Calculator for a preliminary calculation. Please note that the result provided by the Means Test Calculator is a rough estimate for reference only and is not conclusive.



Example 3 – Contribution Payable

Assuming the applicant aged 62 and the personal allowance for the applicant is \$7,510 and assuming the financial eligibility limit for OLAS is \$440,800

<i>Financial position of applicant</i>	
<i>Monthly income (gross)</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>
<i>Monthly contribution to Mandatory Provident Fund</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>
<i>Monthly rental payment</i>	<i>\$17,000</i>
<i>Salaries tax for previous year</i>	<i>\$38,100</i>
<i>Savings account credit balance</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>
<i>Shareholdings</i>	<i>\$150,000</i>

Means test calculation

Monthly disposable income

$$\begin{aligned} &= \$40,000 \text{ (gross monthly income)} - \$1,500 \text{ (contribution to MPF)} - \$7,510 \\ &\quad \text{(personal allowance for applicant)} - \$17,000 \text{ (rent)} - \$3,175 \text{ (salaries tax on a} \\ &\quad \text{monthly basis)} \\ &= \$10,815 \end{aligned}$$

Disposable capital

$$\begin{aligned} &= \$100,000 \text{ (applicant's savings)} + \$150,000 \text{ (value of shares)} - \text{an amount} \\ &\quad \text{equivalent to the financial eligibility limit of the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme to} \\ &\quad \text{be disregarded for AP who has reached the age of 60} \\ &= \$250,000 - \$440,800 \\ &= -\$190,800 \text{ (to be treated as "zero" disposable capital)} \end{aligned}$$

Total financial resources

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{Monthly disposable income} \times 12 + \text{disposable capital} \\ &= \$10,815 \times 12 + \$0 \\ &= \$129,780 \end{aligned}$$

Assessment

As the applicant's financial resources lie between \$110,200.01 and \$165,300, which is within the financial eligibility limit of OLAS, he passes the means test. However, he is required to pay a contribution.

Means Test Calculator for a preliminary calculation. Please note that the result provided by the Means Test Calculator is a rough estimate for reference only and is not conclusive.

