



LIV Mentoring

FAQs FOR MENTEES

Q. How do I find and choose a mentor?

Go to the LIV mentor webpage. There you will find the LIV Mentor Directory which contains a list of LIV trained mentors. Mentees are expected to select their own mentor that suits their needs. Some mentees may choose a mentor who practices in the same area of law or in the same suburb. However bear in mind that the mentor you choose need not be experienced in the same area of law that you practice or work, although at times it may be useful. Mentors that practice in a different area of law from you may offer a different perspective that can provide a good starting point for discussions.

Q. Do mentors and mentees ever meet face-to-face?

There is no reason that the relationship must be limited to email or telephone. We encourage both mentor and mentee to communicate by other means as well. Most importantly, both parties should maintain regular contact with each other.

Q. How much contact should I have with my mentor?

We suggest that initially you should set up short meetings or conversations frequently to get off to a good start and later meet less regularly or more frequently as required. Remember, mentors volunteer their time and their time is limited, so be reasonable.

You should not expect to meet or speak to your mentor every day.

Q. My mentor cannot provide the assistance I need, can I choose another mentor?

Yes, you simply visit the LIV Mentor Directory, select and contact another mentor that meets your needs.

Q. Can I be a mentee as well as a mentor?

Yes you can. All you need to do is to attend a Mentor Information Session held at the LIV throughout the year will provide you with the necessary skills to be an effective mentor.

Visit the LIV mentoring website at www.liv.asn.au/mentor for more details about the Mentor Information Session.

Q. How many mentors can I have?

You can have multiple mentors. Just be sure you have the time to develop an effective working relationship with each one.

Q. How long does the mentoring program last?

Mentors and mentees are expected to remain in the program for a period of 12 months.

Q. How do I communicate with my mentor?

You are expected to make the initial contact after choosing a mentor from the LIV Mentor Directory that meets your needs. Contact can be via email, phone or in-person. You and your mentor should agree on a preferred way to communicate during your initial contact. Remember that the mentors are LIV trained and are ready and willing to be contacted by mentees.

Q. Can I get legal advice from my mentor?

No. Mentors are not required or expected to provide legal advice to their mentees. LIV Mentoring is primarily a program that provides mentees with guidance and support.

Q. What sort of issues should I not expect a mentor to help with?

Mentors do not provide legal advice. Mentors are available to provide encouragement, support, a listening ear, a helping hand, career guidance and may even share some of their own experiences.

Q. What happens if I encounter problems?

Contact LIV Mentoring on **9607 9565** or email mentor@liv.asn.au and the LIV is ready to help with support and intervention as needed.

Q. What sort of topics can I discuss with my mentor?

The LIV leaves the topics for discussion up to the parties. You may discuss with you mentor any topic for which you feel you need guidance and support. For example, a mentor may try to help you focus on your practical legal skills, look at your strengths, work on weak areas or perhaps help with time management.

Q. What should I think about before contacting a mentor?

Think about what sort of areas you feel you need help or guidance. Don't be afraid to ask your mentor if they feel they can help you in these areas—not every mentor will be right for every mentee. Be prepared to make time for an exploratory discussion.

Q. What if I cannot find a mentor who has the skills and experience I am looking for?

Then you may be expecting too much from a mentor and you may need to be referred to other mentoring programs. If this is the case contact LIV Mentoring on **9607 9565** or email mentor@liv.asn.au and they will refer you to another mentoring program.

Q. What if I am not happy with the help or advice a mentor is providing?

You should discuss this directly with your mentor. Many problems can be sorted out through a frank exchange of views, and it is unfair not to tell your mentor if you are having reservations. However if you are still dissatisfied, visit the LIV Mentor Directory and select another mentor.