



## **What is an information barrier?**

Information barriers (Chinese Walls) are established organizational arrangements which are designed to prevent the flow of information between separate departments.

They are used by legal practices to rebut the presumption of imputed knowledge.

The current practice of NAAJA is that the information barrier enables the practice to act against current and former clients, as long as the conflict is only between the civil and the criminal sections.

This means that the information barrier (assuming it is effective) protects us against conflicts arising from the civil and criminal sections acting for and against the same client, for example where a defendant is prosecuted for assault and the civil section is assisting the alleged victim of the assault in family law proceedings against the defendant.

However it does not protect the civil and criminal sections from conflicts which arise within their own section.