



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

Advancing
Human Rights *and*
Justice for All

Maryland Legal Aid

*Providing Legal Services in
Maryland Since 1911*



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Our Mission . .

- *Legal Aid provides free legal services to low-income and vulnerable people in need across Maryland.*
- *Legal Aid has 13 offices throughout the state, and attorneys practice law in every Maryland county*



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Who are we?

- Legal Aid is a non profit organization
- Receive state, local, and federal government funding
- Also receive private foundation grants and personal donations



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Eligibility for Legal Aid Services

- Eligibility is generally based on income: Up to 125% of Federal Income Poverty Guidelines
- In determining eligibility, we look to the income of the potential client's household
- Assets are considered (home and one car are excluded)



Financial Eligibility Conditions

---There is no fee for those who qualify---

125% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines:

Family of 1: \$14,850 yearly income

Family of 2: \$20,025 yearly income

Family of 3: \$25, 200 yearly income

Family of 4: \$30, 375 yearly income



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Special Programs at Legal Aid

- Some programs are not income dependent:
- Elder Law Programs
- Senior Legal Helpline
- Children In Need of Assistance



What Legal Aid Does

- Consumer rights
- Housing: Landlord/tenant concerns
- Foreclosure
- Children in Foster Care
- Domestic Violence survivors
- Custody, divorce, child support modification
- Workers Rights
- Nursing home and assisted living rights/abuse
- Public Benefits
- Veterans Benefits



Intake Process

- Generally by phone, some offices also offer walk-in intake
- Hours for new callers vary by office: can be found at www.mdlab.org
- Intake also occurs at local clinics



Who should call for intake?

- Any potential client should call themselves
- Intake via a third party (social worker, case manager, etc) is difficult because of confidentiality issues and needed income information
- Language Line technology and staff who are fluent in multiple languages are available



The Initial Call

- Basic personal information is gathered
- Conflict check is completed
- General information is gathered about your case (potential adverse parties, subject matter)



Next Steps

- Potential client's information is sent to attorney for possible case handling and full representation
- Referral is made if Legal Aid cannot handle your case internally
- If Legal Aid can accept your case, it may be handled by a staff attorney or a pro bono attorney
- Could be brief service, or full representation thru a trial or hearings



Case specifics: Domestic

Legal Aid looks for the following in determining which cases to accept and prioritize:

- Long term custodial parent
- Attorney on the other side
- Risk of harm to the child (ren)
- History of abuse
- Large disparity in power



Consumer Cases

- Improper garnishments
- Debtor harassment, unlawful collection practices
- Fraud victims
- Foreclosure prevention
- Bankruptcy pro se classes



Employment Matters

- Unemployment insurance
- Wage claims
- Expungement of criminal record to access employment
- Unlawful terminations
- Migrant and seasonal farmworker programs



Landlord-Tenant Matters

- Primarily subsidized housing cases
- Defense of unlawful convictions
- Safety of housing issues/ Rent Escrow
- Defense of breach of lease claims



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Public Benefits

- VA Veterans Benefits
- Temporary cash assistance
- MTA Mobility access cases
- Food stamps
- Unemployment benefits
- SSI/SSDI



Special Programs/Resources

- Maryland Senior Legal Helpline: 866-635-2948
- Joining Forces Veterans Hotline: 443-863-4040
- District Court Self Help Resource Centers:
410-260-1392
- Farmworker Program: 800-444-4099
- Long Term Care Assistance Project: 866-635-2948



Questions?

For more information, contact your local office,
at www.mdlab.org



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