



# GUIDE TO HELP

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

*Because Justice is for All*



*When it's your health, home, personal safety or family on the line, you deserve legal protection so you have a fair shot. That's why civil legal aid provided by Neighborhood Legal Services is so vital.*



## NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

*Civil legal aid provided by  
Neighborhood Legal Services  
assures fairness in the civil justice  
system, regardless of how much  
money you have.*

## Who We Are

In 1966, Neighborhood Legal Services opened its doors with a commitment to equal access to justice for all people and a mission to meet the civil legal needs of the economically disadvantaged individuals in our community through effective legal representation and education. NLS provides civil legal aid to the poor, victims of domestic violence and other vulnerable residents of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Lawrence counties.

All of the cases that NLS handles have reached a crisis stage that threatens the fundamental safety and security of low-income individuals living in our community. These issues involve the basic essentials of life such as family security, safety, shelter, food, work, warmth and health.

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY**  
412-255-6700

**BEAVER COUNTY**  
724-378-0595

**BUTLER COUNTY**  
724-282-3888

**LAWRENCE COUNTY**  
724-658-2677

# Who We Help

## **TROUBLED FAMILIES\***

- Victims of Crime and/or Domestic Violence
- Custodial parents and primary caretakers
- Individuals seeking support or partial custody

## **PEOPLE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS**

- Individuals whose Social Security benefits are being terminated or reduced
- Individuals facing terminations or denials of:
  - Unemployment benefits
  - Cash Assistance
  - Food Stamps
  - Medical Assistance (Medicaid)
  - Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

## **TENANTS\***

- Individuals wrongfully threatened with lock-out or eviction
- Individuals and families improperly denied public or subsidized housing
- Individuals seeking advice on habitability or security deposit issues

## **CONSUMERS\***

- Consumers who face the loss of their homes or essential property through forced public sales (sheriff or tax sales, mortgage foreclosures, executions on personal property)
- Individuals harmed by denial or termination of essential utilities
- Individuals needing bankruptcy to preserve housing, essential property or resolve termination of utilities

- Individuals harmed by predatory lending
- Individuals harmed by unfair debt collection processes or credit law violations

## **WORKERS\***

- Individuals who are owed wages
- Individuals needing pardons or criminal records expunged in order to obtain employment
- Individuals denied Family and Medical Leave benefits
- Individuals facing discrimination

## **VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES\***

- Individuals whose Veterans' benefits have been wrongfully denied, inaccurately calculated, or improperly terminated
- Veterans who need help preventing or overcoming utility shutoffs
- Veterans who need help resolving housing or debt issues

## **ELDERLY (60 AND ABOVE)\***

- Victims of physical, emotional or financial abuse
- Elderly needing living wills, powers of attorney, health care planning and alternatives to guardianship (in Allegheny County)
- Elderly who are subjects of guardianship and/or protective services proceedings (in Allegheny County)

*\* NLS has income limits which vary. Please contact us to find out if we can help you.*

## What Type of Help Do We Offer?

Staffed by skilled lawyers, deeply committed to the practice of civil legal aid, NLS attorneys may provide one or more of the following: advice, limited services, court representation, and information and referral. Unfortunately, we cannot provide court representation to everyone who may need help. We also provide community education on legal topics and free interpretation services to those with limited English abilities and the hearing-impaired. Referrals to private attorneys, both free and reduced-fee are provided when available and appropriate.

## Can We Help You?

NLS offers legal help to those who live in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties. We do not help with criminal cases. U.S. Citizenship is required unless you are trying to get protection under the Protection from Abuse Act, are a victim of trafficking, or sexual assault. We can also help some documented immigrants (see our website for more information). Our ability to help depends upon income and the income limits are set differently depending upon the funding we receive.

## Where Can You Get More Information?

You can visit our website at  
**[www.NLSA.us](http://www.NLSA.us)**.

You can also obtain legal information on a variety of legal topics by visiting  
**[www.PALawHELP.org](http://www.PALawHELP.org)**.

## How Much Does It Cost?

All of our services are free of charge to eligible clients. In a small number of cases, clients may be required to pay some court costs.

### HELP FROM PRIVATE ATTORNEYS

NLS is able to serve more people in need through its Pro Bono Referral Programs. Eligible clients are referred to private attorneys for free or reduced-fee representation.

### SHARING RESOURCES

In order to provide more services to our clients, NLS shares resources and expertise with neighboring legal services programs in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region and statewide as part of Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network ([www.palegalaid.net](http://www.palegalaid.net)).

## How to Apply for Help

To find out if you qualify for legal assistance from NLS you can visit our website at **[www.NLSA.us](http://www.NLSA.us)**. To apply online choose the “Get Legal Help” tab or you may call the office for your county (M-F 9am to 1pm).

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**TOLL-FREE 866-761-6572**





## NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

P

1-866-761-6572

W

WWW.NLSA.US

### ALLEGHENY COUNTY OFFICE

928 PENN AVENUE | PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-3757

### BEAVER COUNTY OFFICE

STONE POINT LANDING, SUITE 204A  
500 MARKET STREET | BRIDGEWATER, PA 15009-2998

### BUTLER COUNTY OFFICE

HOLLY POINTE BUILDING, SUITE 306 PLAZA LEVEL  
220 S. MAIN STREET | BUTLER, PA 16001

### LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE

TEMPLE BUILDING, SUITE 329  
125 EAST NORTH STREET | NEW CASTLE, PA 16101-3751

## How Can You Help?

NLS provides civil legal assistance to vulnerable and low-income individuals and families in our region who otherwise could not afford legal help—the demand for which is ever growing. While NLS works diligently to raise funds to support programs and services for those who have nowhere else to turn, we rely on contributions from individuals like you to help us bridge the justice gap. There are many ways you can help assist NLS's development efforts and help our neighbors in crisis return to safe, productive lives. For more information on how you can help, please visit [www.NLSA.us](http://www.NLSA.us).



Funded, in part, by the Commonwealth and through a contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The official registration and financial information of Neighborhood Legal Services may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Federal regulations applying to NLS require that we notify all donors that no funds can be expended by NLS for any activity prohibited under P.L. 104-134 or otherwise prohibited by 45 C.F.R. §1600 et seq