



# SERVING VICTIMS OF CRIME

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

*Because Justice is for All*



**CIVIL LEGAL AID FOR  
VICTIMS OF CRIME**

**VOCA PROGRAM**

# What is the VOCA Justice for Crime Victims' Legal Aid Program?

The **Victims of Crime Act**, also known as **VOCA**, supports direct civil legal services in certain legal matters for crime victims (those who have suffered physical, sexual, financial or emotional harm) that result from a crime.

Victims, their families, and communities often need help understanding and using the legal system to enforce their rights. The *Justice for Crime Victims' Project* at NLS provides lawyers and client advocates who step in and help victims resolve legal issues resulting from victimization.

## NLS helps in these civil matters:

- Custody problems
- Housing loss
- Domestic violence
- Identity theft/fraud
- Physical/Sexual Assault
- Harassment
- Stalking

# Who We Are

Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) is a non-profit law firm providing civil legal aid.

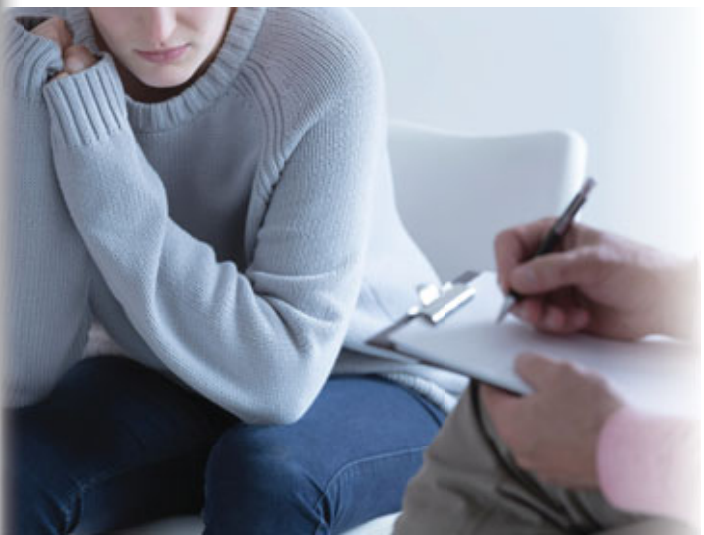
In 1966, we opened our doors with a commitment to **equal access to justice for all people** and a mission to meet the civil legal needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and families in our community.

We are attorneys, client advocates, and staff working to provide civil legal aid in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties.



**NEIGHBORHOOD  
LEGAL SERVICES**

[www.nlsa.us](http://www.nlsa.us)



# What We Do

**NLS provides civil legal representation and social work support from trained staff at no cost to victims of crime.**

## **Our lawyers provide:**

- Legal education
- Court representation
- Advice and limited services

We focus efforts on helping to keep individuals and families **SAFE** by:

- Getting protection orders
- Keeping custody of or access to children
- Leveraging financial resources
- Staying safely housed
- Keeping income and assets protected from identity theft

NLS client advocates connect crime victims to community resources and supportive services in order to successfully stabilize and address housing, food insecurity, personal safety, and employment concerns. They also help individuals apply for Victim Compensation Assistance.

# Who We Can Help

Crime victims\* may be any age, gender, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Being the victim of a crime has a lasting impact on the physical, emotional, psychological, social, financial, and legal well-being of individuals and their families.

## We work to build:

- Legal awareness and empowerment
- Legal information and referral resources
- Partnerships with service organizations that support our shared community

*\*NLS may offer various levels of service on different legal issues. Some individuals may receive representation, others legal advice, and others referrals to available resources. While we wish we could provide full representation to everyone on every legal issue, we simply do not have enough funding and staff resources to do so. Programmatic and financial eligibility restrictions apply. We do not handle personal injury cases or represent anyone charged with a crime. Other restrictions may apply.*

*If you are a victim of crime and are experiencing a civil legal problem as a result, contact NLS for help.*



## NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

# How to Get Help

Visit our website and apply online at

[www.nlsa.us](http://www.nlsa.us)

and choose “Get Legal Help”

or call **1-866-761-6572**

NLS provides interpreters and translation services.  
All services are confidential.

*This is a project funded through the Pennsylvania  
Commission on Crime and Delinquency.*

Neighborhood Legal Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, handicap/disability, national origin, ancestry, creed, and religion or any other characteristics protected by law with regard to employment and/or delivery of legal services.

#### ALLEGHENY COUNTY OFFICE

928 PENN AVENUE | PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

#### BEAVER COUNTY OFFICE

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

#### BUTLER COUNTY OFFICE

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

#### LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE

101 SOUTH MERCER STREET, SUITE 105  
NEW CASTLE, PA 16101



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