



# 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 low-income individuals, 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**  
724-371-3880

**LAWRENCE COUNTY**  
724-658-2677

# Types of Legal Services We Provide

## FAMILY

- Representation for Victims of Crime and Domestic Violence
- Custody
- Guardianship

## HOUSING

- Landlord-Tenant Defense
- Wrongful Eviction
- Tangled Titles
- Public or Subsidized Housing Denials
- Utility or Security Deposit Issues

## CONSUMER

- Bankruptcy
- Sheriff and Property Tax Sales
- Mortgage Foreclosures
- Debt Collection
- Auto Repossession

## PUBLIC BENEFITS

- Denials of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
- Medicaid
- CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)
- TANF (Temporary Assistance of Needy Families)
- LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
- Unemployment Benefits

## SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

- Benefit Denials
- Terminations
- Overpayments and Underpayments

## EMPLOYMENT

- Wage Claims
- Criminal Record Clearing
- Denial of Family and Medical Leave Benefits
- Workplace Discrimination
- Driver's License Suspensions
- Job Terminations

## ELDER

- Living Wills
- Healthcare
- Power of Attorney
- Victims of Physical, Emotional, or Financial Abuse

## VETERANS

- Denial of Veteran Benefits
- Military Discharge Upgrades
- Prevention of Utility Shut-offs
- Help in Resolving Housing or Debt Issues

NLS offers various levels of services on different legal issues. Some individuals may receive representation, others legal advice, and others referrals to available resources. In addition to programmatic limitations, financial income eligibility criteria apply 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 offers various levels of service on different civil 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 every applicant on every legal issue, we simply do not have enough funding and staff resources to do so. In addition to programmatic limitations, financial eligibility criteria apply. 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 the 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



1-866-761-6572



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  
220 SOUTH MAIN STREET | BUTLER, PA 16001

## LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE

101 SOUTH MERCER STREET, SUITE 105  
NEW CASTLE, PA 16101-3751

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).



United Way of  
Southwestern Pennsylvania

IMPACT FUND  
AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE

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