

LEGAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

NSLS's individually tailored programs deal with the legal problems of persons with specialized needs and vulnerabilities to insure that they have access to legal services.

The **Adult Home Project** a bicounty unit representing adult home residents in matters relating to their financial accounts, the conditions of the homes, and the treatment of the residents.

The **Civil Unit Project** helps residents of Nassau and Suffolk counties who run the risk of becoming homeless due to evictions and/or termination of housing programs.

The **Consumer Debt Legal Assistance Project** provides advice and/or representation to persons with consumer debt issues, especially in matters of medical and credit card debt.

The **Disability Advocacy Project** assists disabled persons in appealing the denial of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability (SSD) applications.

The **Domestic Violence Project** provides legal representation to victims of domestic violence in Suffolk County relating to family law matters, including obtaining orders of protection and custody.

The **Education and Disability Rights Project (EDRP)** provides legal assistance to developmentally disabled individuals with a focus on special education issues.

The **Foreclosure Prevention Project** works with Long Island homeowners to avoid foreclosure and preserve their homes.

The **HIV/AIDS** assists HIV-infected persons and their families on issues affecting public benefits, housing, health care and planning for the future through wills, guardianships, and advance directives for medical treatment.

The **Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN)** provides legal representation, education, information, and advocacy for participants and caregivers in Medicaid and Medicare long term care programs.

The **Mental Health Law Project** assists persons with a history of serious mental illness, primarily in matters of public benefits, family law, health care, and housing.

The **Permanency Legal Assistance Needs Project (PLAN)** provides legal assistance to individuals and families affected by cancer to cope with legal, financial and medical issues, and to plan for the future of the family through the course of the illness and after recovery.

The **Reentry Project** helps low income, formerly incarcerated individuals with civil matters with issues relating to public benefits, food stamps, social security, housing, and employment discrimination.

The **Senior Citizen Law Project** provides legal representation, advice, and referrals to Nassau County seniors relating to health care, housing, wills and future planning concerns.

The **Veterans' Rights Project** provides representation, consultation and information to low income veterans. Services include assistance with veterans' benefits, discharge upgrades, public benefits, landlord/tenant and child support matters.

For more information on program services and funding, visit our website at:
www.nslawservices.org



APPOINTMENTS

Appointments are necessary.
Call the LawServices office closest to you.

Nassau County Hempstead Office

1 Helen Keller Way – 5th Floor
Hempstead, NY 11550-3903
Telephone (516) 292-8100
Fax Number..... (516) 292-6529
Volunteer Lawyers Project(516) 292-8299
Fax Number(516) 292-2618

Suffolk County Islandia Office

(serves Suffolk West of Route 112)
1757 Veterans Highway - Suite 50
Islandia, NY 11749-1535
Telephone..... (631) 232-2400
Fax Number..... (631) 232-2489

Riverhead Office

(serves East of Route 112)
400 West Main Street, Suite 301
Riverhead, NY 11901-2840
Telephone..... (631) 369-1112
Fax Number..... (631) 369-1612

www.nslawservices.org



**FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE
FOR LOW INCOME AND
DISABLED LONG ISLANDERS**



*Doing what's legally possible
to create a just world.*



www.nslawservices.org

NASSAU SUFFOLK LAW SERVICES COMMITTEE, INC. is a non profit, community based poverty law program that provides legal assistance in civil (non criminal) matters to low income, disabled, and disadvantaged persons throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Established in 1966, NSLS was one of the first Legal Services Corporation programs in New York State and provides free services in thousands of cases every year.

Our Goal: NSLS is dedicated to providing equal access to basic human rights and services through the provision of high quality legal representation, public information, and community advocacy training to ensure that low income, disabled and disadvantaged individuals have equal access to the civil justice system on Long Island.

Our Staff: The staff is comprised of attorneys, paralegals, social workers and support staff. The social work component is a unique feature of the program and is based on the recognition that some of our clients may need special support and services to deal effectively with the legal system.



EXPERIENCED IN POVERTY LAW

We are skilled poverty law advocates and our focus is on supporting the integrity, safety and well being of low income families by maintaining economic stability. Our cases deal with survival needs and access to public benefit programs is a priority. NSLS is committed to assuring that public assistance, Medicaid, Food Stamps and temporary shelter, are provided fairly to those who are eligible.

EXPERIENCED IN HOUSING RIGHTS

With affordable housing in extremely short supply on Long Island, NSLS focuses on the preservation and improvement of housing conditions and in preventing homelessness. We provide representation on eviction and foreclosure matters, representation in administrative hearings in order to prevent the loss of housing subsidies, and as resources permit, advocacy on utility issues.

DELIVERY OF SERVICES

NSLS utilizes many methods to deliver service to our community:

- Direct representation in negotiations and litigation
- Legal advice or other brief service
- Referral services to pro bono and community resources
- Community legal education
- Participation in community advisory groups, work groups and task forces

ELIGIBILITY

For most of our programs, eligibility is based on the poverty level. Most persons receiving need-based benefits such as public assistance, SSI, Medicaid or food stamps are eligible. Others may be eligible depending on income, dependents, and factors such as medical expenses. Immigration status is a consideration, as well. We do not accept criminal cases or cases that could generate a fee for a private attorney.

FEE

NSLS charges no fee for its services.

SERVICES TO EMPOWER AND INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY

Innovative programs that partner with community advocates and volunteer attorneys

The **Legal Support Center for Advocates (LSCA)** offers extensive legal information, advice and training to hundreds of community advocates each year, as well as an educational newsletter and E-News service. The initiative is highly valued by local advocates as it is often the only source of current information on legal developments relevant to the low income and disabled Long Island community. LSCA often provides a critical alternative to direct legal services by providing individualized assistance by phone to community advocates and thereby enables us to reach thousands more Long Islanders in need.

Volunteer Lawyers Project/Pro Bono Project. Since 1980, NSLS has worked closely with the Nassau and Suffolk Bar Associations to increase the availability of legal services to the poor. Our joint programs, the Pro Bono Project in Suffolk and the Volunteer Lawyers Project in Nassau, have recruited hundreds of private attorneys who represent low income persons without charge. These projects have greatly expanded our capacity and have become models for other pro bono programs throughout the country. Our volunteer attorneys handle a wide array of cases ranging from bankruptcies and guardianships, landlord/tenant, matrimonial matters and wills.



Doing what's legally possible to create a just world.