

Elder Law Program

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES?

Anyone who is age 60 or older and a resident of Delaware. There are no financial eligibility requirements for this program. However, we do target our services to those who are economically and / or socially in need; to those threatened with loss of income, housing or assets.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS HANDLED BY THE ELDER LAW PROGRAM?

Drafting legal documents

- Drafting Powers of Attorney
- Drafting Advance Health Care Directives (formerly known as “Living Wills”)

Assisting with consumer problems, such as:

- Debt collection
- Home repair cases

Assisting with housing problems, such as:

- Evictions
- Unsafe housing conditions
- Lock-outs

Assisting with issues involving public benefits, such as:

- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Social Security

The Elder Law Program makes home visits for those who are unable to travel. We also provide community education presentations and visit Senior Centers statewide.

CLASI does NOT handle the following kinds of cases:

- Malpractice cases
- Criminal matters
- Wills
- Traffic offenses

CLASI's Mission

Community Legal Aid Society, Inc is a private, non-profit law firm dedicated to equal justice for all. We provide civil legal services to assist clients in becoming self sufficient and meeting basic needs with dignity. Our clients include members of our community who have low incomes, who have disabilities, or who are age 60 and over.

What is the cost for services?

CLASI does not charge fees for our services.

We are a private, non-profit law firm. Funding is provided by private, public, and government sources.

CLASI Offices

New Castle County

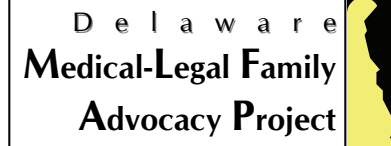
Community Service Building
100 West 10th Street, Suite 801
Wilmington, DE 19801
302-575-0660 (TTY/TDD also)
302-575-0666 - Elder Law Program
302-575-0690 - Disabilities Program
FAX: 302-575-0840

Kent County

840 Walker Road
Dover, DE 19904
302-674-8500 (TTY/TDD also)
302-674-3684 - Elder Law Program
302-674-8503 - Disabilities Program
FAX: 302-674-8145

Sussex County

20151 Office Circle
Georgetown, DE
302-856-0038 (TTY/TDD also)
302-856-4112 - Elder Law Program
302-856-3742 - Disabilities Program
FAX: 302-856-6133



Advocacy Code Card: A Guide to
Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI)
Resources and Services for Healthcare Staff

How can CLASI help?

CLASI provides **free** legal services to residents of Delaware in civil (non-criminal) matters. These services include advocacy, advice & counseling, negotiation, representation at administrative hearings & in court, and community legal education programs.

General problems CLASI handles:

Housing

- Evictions and lock-outs
- Unsafe housing conditions
- Public housing rights
- Section 8 and other subsidized housing rights

Government Benefits

- Social Security / SSI
- Food Stamps
- Medicare / Medicaid
- Welfare / TANF
- General Assistance
- Child care subsidies (purchase of care)

Immigration Issues

- Assistance for immigrants who are victims of crime, trafficking or domestic violence
- Assistance for juvenile immigrants who are in long term foster care or who have been declared dependent

Family Issues (only in Kent and Sussex Counties)

- Representation of victims of domestic violence (Protection From Abuse Orders, related child custody issues, divorce and property division).

In addition to these general legal problems, CLASI handles some additional special problems in their Elder Law and Disabilities Law Programs. Information on these programs is discussed later in this advocacy card.

Disabilities Law Program

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES?

The Disabilities Law Program provides legal advocacy services to Delaware residents with physical or mental disabilities. Our services are provided at no cost to persons with disabilities, regardless of family or individual income. We provide individual advocacy, systemic advocacy, general information, referral services, and community education / self advocacy training.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DISABILITIES LAW PROGRAM?

Assistance with Health Care Coverage / Medical Assistance

- Assistance with appeals of Medicaid denied coverage of medically necessary services
- Representation for individuals whose applications for Medicaid are denied
- Assistance obtaining assistive technology

Assistance with Obtaining Appropriate and Safe Care from Residential/Community Providers for Individuals With Disabilities

(Mental Illness, Traumatic Brain Injury, Developmental Disabilities, and Other Disabilities)

- Protection and advocacy for individuals who are victims or who are at risk of abuse, neglect or civil rights violations
- Assistance with securing an individualized treatment plan, appropriate treatment, or discharge and a comprehensive discharge plan
- Freedom from inappropriate institutionalization

Education Assistance, Including Obtaining:

- A free and appropriate education (special education)
- Vocational training
- Accommodations

Discrimination and Access Advocacy Services

- Freedom from discrimination in housing, public accommodations, or family services
- Obtaining reasonable accommodations and modifications in housing
- Accessibility of public accommodations
- Availability and access to transportation
- Public agency policy accommodations

Assistance for Beneficiaries of Social Security

- Assistance for recipients of Social Security benefits such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability (SSDI)
 - ⇒ Provision of information and training on work incentives and employment
 - ⇒ Advocacy to overcome barriers to employment
 - ⇒ Investigation of complaints against employers or providers involved in return to work effort
 - ⇒ Correction of defects in vocational rehabilitation, employment, and support agencies
- Advocacy for individuals who were denied SSI

Other Types of Assistance :

- Assistance with voting access
- Advocacy services for victims of crime
- Assistance for parents with disabilities who need services to prevent the State from taking their children, or to have their children returned to them.
- Assistance with other rights related to disability

Poverty Law Program

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES?

Individuals who have an income that is not more than 125% of the federal poverty guidelines. In certain circumstances this limit may be exceeded. CLASI's receptionist can help determine whether an individual is eligible for our services.

WHAT GENERAL PROBLEMS ARE HANDLED BY THE POVERTY LAW PROGRAM?

- **Housing** (see the examples listed on the front of this card)
- **Government Benefits** (see the front of this card)
- **Domestic Abuse:** including Protection from Abuse Orders, child custody, visitation and divorces for victims of domestic abuse (Kent and Sussex only).
- **Immigration Law:** immigration assistance for juveniles in long term foster care or who have been declared dependent, and for victims of crime, trafficking or domestic violence.

Fair Housing

WHAT IS FAIR HOUSING?

It is prohibited by either or both the Federal or Delaware Fair Housing Acts to discriminate in housing on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, familial/marital status, disability, or age.

WHAT FAIR HOUSING ADVOCACY SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH CLASI?

- Intake, investigation and processing of housing discrimination complaints.
- If a complaint is determined to be meritorious, representation can be provided in negotiations, in the administrative complaint proceedings before the applicable state / federal agency and in court proceedings.