

Resources During the COVID-19 Outbreak

REMEMBER—WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!

CLASI's advocacy team is here to help with your civil legal issues. During the COVID 19 outbreak, we remain committed to serving our clients. CLASI staff are working remotely while our offices are temporarily closed to ensure that our organization remains fully operational. All intakes and referrals will be done via phone by CLASI staff. We encourage you to continue to contact us for assistance with your civil legal issues. If you call, please leave a message with a current phone number or email, and an advocate will call or email you back.

FOOD & PANTRY

In the wake of the State of Emergency, the Governor ordered all Delaware public schools to close until March 27, 2020. All children under the age of 18 are eligible to receive **school breakfast and lunch**. Visit www.doe.k12.de.us/covid19 for a full list of "grab and go" school meal sites.

Additionally, DART is offering public school students free bus rides to "grab and go" school meal sites on regularly scheduled bus routes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until school is back in session. Of course, please consider your health and personal circumstances before using public transportation.

The **Food Bank of Delaware** directly distributes EMERGENCY food to the public through the Healthy Pantry Center. Appointments are required at the Newark and Milford pantry locations. For **Newark** appointments call (302) 292-1305 ext. 227 or for **Milford** appointments call (302) 424-3301 ext. 106. Participants must bring ID and proof of Delaware Residency.

Food Bank Locations and Hours:

Newark Pantry 222 Lake Drive, Newark, DE 19702. Entrance is at the back of the building near the loading ramp. Enter first glass door.

- Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (last shopper at 3:00 p.m.)
- Third Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (last shopper at 6:30 p.m.)
- Second Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to noon (last shopper at 11:30 a.m.)

Milford Pantry 1040 Matlind Way, Milford, DE 19963. Enter building through entrance under green awning. Return visits are after 7 days or greater.

- Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (last participant at 3:30 p.m.)
- 4th Tuesdays: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (last participant at 6:30 p.m.)
- 2nd Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (last participant at 11:30 a.m.)

To find food assistance programs closer to you, call 211 or go to <https://www.delaware211.org/>. They can direct you to other programs available in your area.

COURTS

Starting Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the Justice of the Peace Courts stopped processing evictions, or scheduling eviction trials, until May 1, 2020. There are limited exceptions to this order, such as cases where there is an emergency requiring the case to move forward, and someone convinces the court that serious harm will occur if the case is delayed.

You may still get notices from your landlord, for example if you did not pay rent. If you get a notice from your landlord, please contact CLASI. We are still here to help, and offer advice.

Delaware Family Courts closed on March 23rd, except for emergencies. However, Family Court will accept emergency civil filings, which includes Protection from Abuse Petitions, via email at FC_COVID19@delaware.gov. If you need help related to Domestic Violence, please call the confidential 24 Hour Hotline in your area:

New Castle County: (302) 762-6110
Northern Kent County: (302) 678-3886
Kent/Sussex Counties: (302) 422-8058
Bi-Lingual Kent/Sussex: (302) 745-9874

Community Legal Aid Society Inc.



UTILITIES

Electric and Gas:

Delmarva Power Company has suspended all disconnections of service, and is waiving late fees. While they cannot disconnect services during the cold weather months, typically determined to end by April 15th, Delmarva has extended that period to May 1, 2020, due to COVID-19. Delmarva is asking that customers with temporary or extended financial hardship contact them to discuss possible payment arrangements, and energy assistance options. <https://www.delmarva.com/safetyCommunity/Safety/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Wi-Fi/Internet Services:

If you are eligible for public assistance programs such as:

- the National School Lunch Program
- Housing Assistance
- Medicaid, SNAP
- SSI and other related programs

You could be eligible for Comcast's free 60 day Wi-Fi/internet plan. Comcast has announced a plan to make home internet more accessible to low-income communities in the wake of COVID-19. Individuals must complete an application by April 30, 2020, and if approved, may receive 60 days of free internet service, with plans starting at \$9.95 per month thereafter. Additional details and the application are available at: <https://www.internetessentials.com/>

STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Delaware Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance is coordinating with federal and local partners to respond to COVID-19 as information becomes available. The latest Delaware specific information can be found at <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/epi/2019novelcoronavirus.html>.

Medicaid:

Effective March 19, 2020, the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) has announced that all Medicaid renewals/recertification will be suspended and automatically renewed to avoid lapses in coverage.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Premiums:

Effective March 19, 2020, DHSS announced that all premiums for the CHIP program are waived to expand access to coverage for children in families who are otherwise eligible for the CHIP program.

Public Benefits:

If you lost your job or hours due to COVID-19, you can apply for Medicaid/Medical Assistance, SNAP (Food Stamps), TANF cash assistance, or LIHEAP heating assistance. If you already receive any/all of these benefits, you may be able to get an increase in benefits due to your reduced income. To apply, go to: <https://assist.dhss.delaware.gov/>

Public Charge:

During the COVID-19 outbreak, non-Citizens who need testing, and treatment related to the COVID-19 outbreak will not be considered a public charge by Immigration. If you have questions related to the public charge rule please contact CLASI for additional information.

Unemployment:

If you or someone in your household is not working due to:

- Shut downs because of the State of Emergency declaration; or
- Being ordered by a doctor to self quarantine; or
- Being forced to quit or take unpaid leave from your job to care for children due to the Governor's emergency closure of schools

You could be eligible for unemployment benefits. Delawareans who would like to file for unemployment benefits online can visit <https://ui.delawareworks.com>. If you have questions, you can email Department of Labor at uiclaims@delaware.gov or call them at 302-761-8446.

www.declasi.org

Twitter: @DECLASI

Facebook: @CommunityLegalAidSociety

New Castle County: (302) 575-0660

Kent County: (302) 674-8500

Sussex County: (302) 856-0038

TTY: (302) 575-0696

