

LEGAL SERVICES



Finding the right path toward justice and healing can be daunting in the wake of victimization, but you are not alone. This guide is here to offer a compassionate hand, to illuminate legal avenues available to victims and survivors of crime, and to provide a beacon of hope along the way.

We understand that navigating the complexities of the legal system can be overwhelming. We want you to know that there are organizations and resources, many of which are low-cost or free, committed to supporting you in your pursuit of justice and recovery. These resources encompass many legal service needs, whether you need assistance with legal representation, seeking financial compensation, or understanding your rights.

We aim to power you with knowledge, compassion, and the necessary resources to navigate the legal system. Your path to justice is unique, and we are here to guide you every step of the way.

We invite you to explore the resources in this guide at your own pace, seeking the support and knowledge that resonate with you. If you have any questions or concerns about an agency listed in this guide, please do not hesitate to contact our offices at 225-342-1570 for more information.

Health & Happiness,



ACADIANA LEGAL SERVICES

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 1-800-256-1175

Alexandria Office Phone: 318-443-7281

Franklin Office Phone: 337-346-5702

Lafayette Office Phone: 337-237-4320

Lake Charles Office Phone: 337-439-0377

Monroe Office Phone: 318-699-0889

Natchitoches Office Phone: 318-352-7220

Shreveport Office Phone: 318-222-7186

Acadiana Legal Service Corporation fights for the economically challenged in the most pressing civil legal issues and needs ensuring equal justice for all. We fight for fairness and equality in the justice system. We provide free, specialized, civil legal services to low-income individuals and families across 42 Louisiana Parishes. We work every-day to assist domestic violence victims, stand for the rights of abused and neglected children, help preserve housing for hard-working families, prevent homelessness for people with disabilities and veterans, help protect elderly consumers, remove barriers to health care and much more.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS - IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 504-658-6860

Our Immigration Services staff help clients understand the immigration law, learn their rights under the law and complete the immigration process successfully. Our Refugee Services staff provide resettlement and self-sufficiency services to newly arrived refugees and other immigrants with humanitarian legal status. Services include case management, employment assistance, cultural orientation, legal aid and more. Catholic Charities also offers English as a Second Language (ESL) and Citizenship classes.

CENTRAL LOUISIANA PRO BONO PROJECT

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 318-449-9778

The Project is a free legal non-profit program whose main priority is to reach as many clients as possible who are in need of legal representation and to provide services as efficiently and effectively as possible. The pro bono project accepts uncontested civil cases such as divorce, custody, name change, wills, advance directives, successions, contract, housing, landlord/tenant, and bankruptcy. Cases must be uncontested, the client must fit the federal poverty guideline and reside in Rapides, Vernon or Avoyelles parish.

DISABILITY RIGHTS LOUISIANA (DRLA)

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 1-800-960-7705

Not-for-profit organization that protects and advocates for the human and legal rights of people with disabilities of all ages across our state. We work to empower the disability community to live an integrated life, free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. DRLA pursues our mission by providing free legal services, advocating for clients through the work done in our programs, changing systems through our legislative advocacy, and by providing training and other helpful information to help people advocate for themselves.

BATON ROUGE BAR FOUNDATION

[Click here for website](#) [Apply for services here](#)

Office Phone: 225-344-4803

The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation serves a vital role in our community from providing law-related educational resources to area educators, to representing low-income residents in local courts, to awarding scholarships to deserving students. The Baton Rouge Bar Foundation Pro Bono Project is dedicated to improving equal access to justice for all and has been making a meaningful change in people's lives since 1986. Our Pro Bono Project volunteers provide critical civil legal services for poor people in our community struggling with some of life's most difficult problems: family disintegration, loss of housing, bankruptcy, loss of income through disability domestic violence and more.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS - PROJECT SAVE

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 504-310-6872

Project SAVE assists survivors of domestic violence residing in Orleans Parish to obtain free emergency legal representation. Staff attorneys help with legal orders to keep survivors of domestic violence safe and to protect their legal rights. These legal services may include temporary restraining and protective orders, temporary child support, temporary custody, and temporary use of property. Attorneys may also make referrals to other social services and/or legal agencies as necessary.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

[Click here for website](#) [Find your local program here](#)

Phone: 225-930-0305

Louisiana CASA is the statewide association for the 17 local CASA programs. We raise awareness of the need for CASA across our state and provide support, training, resources, and oversight to maintain high-quality programs that serve children's best interests. We advocate for legislation that benefits children in foster care and the CASA volunteers who work on their behalf. At the local level, the local CASA programs recruit, train and supervise Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers to advocate for children involved in the child welfare system and improve their well-being. Currently, there are 17 local programs who serve 61 parishes in Louisiana.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL EMPOWERMENT AND APPEALS PROJECT (DV LEAP)

[Click here for website](#)

DV LEAP makes the law work for survivors of domestic violence by challenging unjust trial outcomes; advancing legal protections through expert pro bono advocacy; training lawyers, advocates, and judges on best practices; and spearheading domestic violence litigation in the Supreme Court. We provide legal representation in appeals and assistance with amicus briefs only in appeals of final orders. We also provide limited resources for survivors of domestic violence who are not seeking to appeal a final order.

ENOUGH

[Click here for website](#) [Student Survivor Toolkit](#)

Students, we believe you. We have your back. If you have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment, you have rights. ENOUGH is a advice helpline for students featuring Title IX experts who can tell you about your options to feel safe at school, get academic extensions, and more. ENOUGH can help you figure out what's next. It's completely free and confidential.

ENOUGH provides student survivors of sexual assault and sexual harassment with free legal information, advice, and services. We'll connect you with an ENOUGH advocate, a volunteer Title IX expert who wants to help you feel safe at school and can help you figure out your options. Our Student Survivor Toolkit can help you figure it out on your own, if you prefer. Learn information about your rights and options, the Title IX process, and more.

FORMSPAL

[Click here for website](#)

Legal language is complex and attorneys are expensive. But there's a better way of doing things, and it's FormsPal. We are one of the biggest free databases of legal forms online. Our goal is to support our communities and every individual regardless of gender, age, nationality, or religion by offering high-quality legal forms online. We boast thousands of document templates valid in all 50 states. Some are created by our trained attorneys, and some are taken from trusted sources. We also made sure to provide you with as much additional information and guidelines as possible. Legal work and attorney fees aren't cheap, and having a lower income makes it all the more difficult for people with disabilities to get the care and service they need. Luckily, there is a large database of online resources that are making the preparation of legal documents and fillable PDF forms much more affordable and, in many cases, even free of charge.

LAFAYETTE BAR ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 337-237-4700

The Lafayette Bar Foundation provides pro bono legal programs to educate and guide the indigent, low-income, or disadvantaged within our community. Through the assistance of grants funded by the Louisiana Bar Foundation and Acadiana Legal Service Corporation, the Lafayette Bar Foundation is able to assist women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, the newly unemployed, and disaster victims by providing these pro bono legal services that educate and guide them on particular legal matters.

LOUISIANA CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 504-658-6860

The Louisiana Center for Children's Rights is a nonprofit law office that stands with kids in the justice system no matter what. We provide holistic legal defense to address children's needs both inside and outside the courtroom. We tackle the systemic issues that criminalize mostly poor, Black youth in the first place. Our goal is to keep kids out of a harmful system so that they can thrive where they belong: at home, at school, and in our communities.

FIRST GRACE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

[Click here for website](#)

Hagar's House phone: 504-210-5064

Project Ishmael phone: 504-233-3057

FGCA's mission is to work with and for people in need, especially women and children, by meeting food, housing and other needs, while simultaneously challenging systematic poverty in the greater New Orleans area. Our main two programs are Hagar's House and Project Ishmael. Hagar's House is a sanctuary for women, children, and gender non-conforming folks that provides an open and empowering residential community, resource coordination, and a safe space to transition into sustainable housing. Project Ishmael is a pro bono immigration legal program for children that seeks to: meet some of the immigration legal needs of children in New Orleans, and coordinate with volunteer attorneys to help meet the diverse legal needs of individuals who currently live at Hagar's House.

FREE LEGAL ANSWERS

[Click here for website](#)

Louisiana Free Legal Answers is a virtual legal advice clinic in which qualifying users post civil legal question to be answered by pro bono attorneys licensed in their state. Question topics include Family, Divorce, Custody, Housing, Eviction, Homelessness, Consumer Rights, Financial, Work, Employment, Unemployment, Health and Disability, Civil Rights, Income Maintenance, Juvenile and Education Law. By using this website, you are asking a lawyer to give you legal help on your specific legal questions. They will be your lawyer for this limited purpose and will not do anything for you other than provide this help.

LEGAL MOMENTUM

Gender Equality Helpline: 1-800-649-0297

[Click here for website](#)

Legal Momentum is the oldest non-profit legal organization dedicated to advancing the rights of women and girls by using the power of the law and creating innovative public policy. To advance the cause of gender equality, we continue to engage in impact litigation, legislative advocacy, and educational initiatives to advance our four focus areas: violence against women and girls, workplace equality and economic empowerment, and equal educational opportunities.

LOUISIANA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION (LDAA)

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 225-343-0171

The Louisiana District Attorneys Association (LDAA) is a not-for-profit organization created in 1973 to promote the orderly administration of justice, assist District Attorneys and Assistant District Attorneys with their mutual problems, and provide them a platform with which to meet and discuss shared concerns and goals. Since then, it has expanded to assist with all levels of services associated with the office of the District Attorney through training and liaison work to research and technical development.

LOUISIANA LAW HELP

[Click here for website](#)

Louisiana Law Help is a guide to free civil legal services for low-income persons and seniors in Louisiana. This site provides legal education materials and tools that give you basic information on a number of legal problems, and in some cases, detailed instructions and forms to help you represent yourself in court. You can also locate information on free legal aid programs in Louisiana, including basic eligibility and contact information.

LOUISIANA PROTECTIVE ORDER REGISTRY (LPOR)

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 504-568-5208

The Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR) is a statewide repository of court orders issued to prohibit domestic abuse, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault. The registry was established for the purpose of enhancing court-ordered protections for victims and their minor children, and to aid law enforcement, prosecutors and the courts in handling cases involving intimate partner violence. LPOR is not a public access database. From this site, you can view and download legal forms and software programs developed by LPOR to assist those who fill out forms on a regular basis. A compilation of Louisiana and federal laws related to domestic violence, including a table of relevant cases, can be viewed and downloaded from this site. Learn the filing steps a petitioner takes to get a restraining order.

LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Toll-Free Phone: 800-421-LSBA (5722)

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 504-566-1600

The mission of the Access to Justice Program is to assure that every Louisiana citizen has access to competent civil legal representation by promoting and supporting a broad based and effective justice community through collaboration between the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana Bar Foundation, Louisiana Law Schools, private practitioners, local bar associations, pro bono programs and legal aid providers.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM LAW INSTITUTE (NCVLI)

[Click here for website](#)

NCVLI's mission is to actively promote balance and fairness in the justice system through crime victim centered legal advocacy, education, and resource sharing. NCVLI actively promotes comprehensive and enforceable legal rights for crime victims and access to knowledgeable attorneys to help protect those rights in every case through victim centered legal advocacy, education, and resources.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

[Click here for website](#) [Legal Assistance Request](#)

The National Women's Law Center fights for gender justice—in the courts, in public policy, and in our society—working across the issues that are central to the lives of women and girls. We use the law in all its forms to change culture and drive solutions to the gender inequity that shapes our society and to break down the barriers that harm all of us—especially women of color, LGBTQ people, and low-income women and families.

LOUISIANA'S MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICE

[Click here for website](#)

Baton Rouge Phone: 225-342-6678

Lafayette Phone: 337-262-2030

Lake Charles Phone: 337-491-2461

Livingston Phone: 225-686-2130

New Orleans Phone: 504-568-8904

Northshore Phone: 985-626-6661

Pineville Phone: 318-484-6348

Shreveport Phone: 318-676-7332

The Mental Health Advocacy Service is an independent state agency under the office of the governor of the state of Louisiana established for the purpose of providing legal counsel and representation to both children and adults who have a mental illness or substance-related/addictive disorder and are admitted for treatment pursuant to Louisiana's mental health law. Legal counsel includes, but is not limited to, voluntary and involuntary admissions, commitment, legal competency, change of status, transfer, and discharge. MHAS also provides qualified legal counsel to children in child abuse and neglect cases in those jurisdictions designated by the Louisiana Supreme Court through its Child Advocacy Program.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM BAR ASSOCIATION

[Click here for website](#) [Attorney Referral](#)

The National Crime Victim Bar Association is an affiliate and program of the National Center for Victims of Crime. We are the nation's first professional association of attorneys and expert witnesses dedicated to helping victims seek justice through the civil system. The National Crime Victim Bar Association continues the pioneering work of Frank Carrington and is a testament to the National Center for Victims of Crime's long-standing commitment to civil justice for victims. The National Crime Victim Bar Association is dedicated to assisting crime victims rebuild their lives through providing support and resources to the civil attorneys representing who have dedicated their lives to crime victims.

NATIONAL HEALTH LAW PROGRAM

[Click here for website](#)

The National Health Law Program protects and advances health rights of low-income and underserved individuals and families. We advocate, educate and litigate at the federal and state levels to advance health and civil rights in the U.S. We strive to give a voice to low-income individuals and families in federal and state policy making, promote the rights of patients in emerging managed-care health care systems, and advocate for a health care system that will ensure all people have access to quality and comprehensive health care.

NOLO

[Click here for website](#) [Resources for victims](#)

Nolo began publishing do-it-yourself legal guides in 1971. In the 40 years since its founding, Nolo has evolved with technology, developing do-it-yourself software and building Nolo.com into one of the Internet's leading legal websites. With over 50 web properties, the Nolo Network is one of the web's largest libraries of consumer-friendly legal information – all available for free. With oversight from Nolo's editorial team, we strive to deliver free legal information of the highest quality. We also offer local lawyers the ability to contribute to the Nolo network.

SHREVEPORT BAR FOUNDATION PRO BONO PROJECT

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 318-222-7186

The Shreveport Bar Foundation also operates the Pro Bono Project in Caddo and Bossier Parishes. The Pro Bono Project provides free legal assistance by volunteer attorneys in civil matters for qualified indigent and low-income Caddo and Bossier Parish residents. Lawyers in private practice volunteer through the Pro Bono Project to take cases for individual clients who qualify based on Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. Hundreds of people with serious legal problems that affect their health, safety, shelter or income are assisted by volunteer attorneys annually.

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER (SPLC)

[Click here for website](#)

Toll-Free Phone: 888-414-7752 Phone: 334-956-8200

The SPLC is a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people. Our lawsuits have toppled institutional racism and stamped out remnants of Jim Crow segregation; destroyed some of the nation's most violent white supremacist groups; and protected the civil rights of children, women, the disabled, immigrants and migrant workers, the LGBTQ community, prisoners, and many others who faced discrimination, abuse or exploitation. Our Intelligence Project is internationally known for tracking and exposing the activities of hate groups and other domestic extremists. Learning for Justice provides free resources to caregivers and educators—teachers, administrators, counselors and other practitioners—who work with children from kindergarten through high school. Educators use the materials to supplement the curriculum, to inform their practices, and to create civil and inclusive school communities where children and youth are respected, valued and welcome participants.

WomensLaw.org was founded in February 2000 by Elizabeth Martin, with the help of a group of lawyers, teachers, advocates, and web designers who were interested in seeing the power of the Internet help survivors of domestic violence. Despite its name, WomensLaw.org provides information that is relevant to people of all genders, not just women. Our Email Hotline will provide legal information to anyone who reaches out with legal questions or concerns regarding domestic violence, sexual violence, or any other topic covered on WomensLaw.org.

THE PRO BONO PROJECT

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 504-581-4043

The Pro Bono Project exists to ensure that all underserved citizens of six local Louisiana parishes can find lawyers willing to donate time and civil legal experience to help them resolve civil legal problems. The Pro Bono Project helps low-income families, individuals, and the elderly in need gain access to lawyers who can help them resolve civil legal issues. These issues range from family law matters like divorces, custody agreements, name changes, and adoptions; to property questions related to successions and estate planning, proof of title, contractor litigation, and consumer complaints; to debt issues, and much more.

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA LEGAL SERVICES

[Click here for website](#) Toll-Free Phone: 1-844-244-7871

Baton Rouge Phone: 225-448-0080

Covington Phone: 985-893-0076

Gretna Phone: 504-374-0977

Hammond Phone: 985-345-2130

Houma Phone: 985-851-5687

New Orleans Phone: 504-529-1000

St. Charles Parish Phone: 985-331-3034

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS) is a non-profit law firm that offers representation, advocacy, and legal education to low-income people in a wide variety of civil matters. The legal help we provide plays a vital role for protecting the stability of families and communities. Our work breaks down legal barriers so that low-income people can access safety, housing, income, education, medical care, and so much more. These challenges can only be solved with the help of a lawyer. SLLS does not handle criminal or personal injury cases. All services are free.

URBAN LEAGUE OF LOUISIANA

[Click here for website](#) Phone: 504-620-2332

Having served Greater New Orleans since 1938 with a mission to assist underserved communities in securing economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights, the Urban League expanded to a statewide entity in 2016, becoming the Urban League of Louisiana (ULLA). ULLA provides services to citizens through programs housed in three essential Centers of Excellence, which take a holistic approach to addressing issues that concern low to moderate-income families: The Center for Education and Youth Development, the Center for Workforce and Economic Development, and the Center for Policy and Social Justice.

WOMENSLAW

[Click here for website](#) [Email Hotline](#)