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May 31st, 2023
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LAW SERVICES

Doing what's legally possible to create a just world since 1966.

ADVOCACY TIPS FOR MAY

ONE

Student Loan Tip! Are you in default on your *federal* student loans? There are two primary ways to get out of default.

- **Rehabilitation.** Make nine monthly payments in full and on time over a ten-month period. You must call your loan servicer to start this process. *Caution: You can only rehabilitate your loans one time.*
- **Consolidation.** You get a new loan to pay off your defaulted loan, which cures the default. You will then be required to make payments according to the terms of your new loan. You can apply for consolidation online with your FSA ID through the Department of Education's [website](#). *Caution: Consolidating your loans may result in the loss of certain benefits available to you prior to default.*

For more information on defaulted student loans, [please visit the Federal Student Aid website](#).

Nassau Suffolk Law Services is a participating agency in the EDCAP (Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program) Network. EDCAP helps New Yorkers navigate the student loan system regardless of the type of education debt, federal or private. EDCAP offers free, one-on-one counseling with our student loan experts who only have your best interests at heart. Nassau Suffolk Law Services can also assist when a defendant is being sued on a higher education debt matter. Please contact the EDCAP helpline at (888) 614-5004 or be screened for legal services by Nassau Suffolk Law Services at (516) 292-8100.

TWO

Attention Veterans! In January 2023, the Supreme Court held that there is a firm one-year timeframe for military veterans to apply for retroactive service-connected disability benefits, and cannot be extended even when the veteran is not at fault for missing the deadline. Veterans who have a service-connected disability should apply for benefits within one year of leaving the service.

Nassau Suffolk Law Services Veterans Rights Project provides legal assistance to low-income United States military veterans. Legal services include assistance with various issues including veteran's benefits and appeals, discharges, upgrades, public benefits, landlord-tenant matters, consumer debt issues, select social security appeals, and family law matters. The family law matter assistance provided focuses on child support and excludes divorces, custody, and visitation. Suffolk residents can call 631-232-2400 Nassau residents can call 516-292-8100.

THREE

Public Benefits Alert! As of May 12th, 2023, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) updated its policy pertaining to non-citizens who are considered permanently residing under color of law (PRUCOL). Individuals eligible under this new update may be eligible for Safety Net Assistance (SNA). See *Non-citizens Recognized as Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL) for Safety Net Assistance (SNA) Eligibility*, <https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2023/23DC039.pdf>.

NLSL's Public Benefits Unit provides legal assistance to persons who experience problems with public benefits programs that are administered by the local Departments of Social Services, including:

- Welfare (TANF and Safety Net)
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps (SNAP)
- Child Care Assistance
- HEAP
- Emergency shelter for the homeless
- Unemployment insurance appeals and overpayments
- Other emergency assistance programs

We also assist low-income households in establishing Supplemental Needs Trusts to eliminate the Medicaid spend-down and assist homeless families to obtain rent supplements from DSS to enable families to leave the shelters or retain permanent housing. Suffolk residents west of 112 can call 631-232-2400 and east of 112 can call 631-369-1112. Nassau residents can call 516-292-8100.

FOUR

The Public Health Emergency Has Ended! New York State has begun the process of resuming annual renewals for Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and the Essential Plan. Anyone covered by these public coverage programs anytime beginning March 2020 has stayed covered through continuous coverage. The federal government has directed states to resume renewals beginning April 2023. Some New Yorkers began receiving renewal packets in March 2023, and everyone will receive them over the next year. The first date enrollees can lose coverage if they do not renew or if they are no longer eligible is July 1, 2023. [Please see the fact sheet from Medicaid Matters New York for some helpful tips.](#)

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FIVE

ATTENTION! Town of Hempstead, Town of Oyster Bay, and the OTDA ERAP portals are CLOSED and not expected to reopen. OTDA (Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance) is currently processing eligible ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program) applications submitted through the closing date of January 20th, 2023, *including applications from subsidized housing tenants whose rent is limited to a certain percentage of income (including public housing, section 8 and FHEPS).* This means that if a tenant submitted an ERAP application through OTDA *before* January 20th, 2023, then OTDA will be denying or approving the application soon. Eviction proceedings should be stayed (temporarily stopped) if there is a pending ERAP application until there is a final decision including going through any appeals process. **The Town of Islip has a separate portal where residents can apply, however, this portal is currently closed.** See the information below. If you receive a decision on your ERAP application that you disagree with, make sure to appeal within thirty (30) days by calling 844-691-7368 or filling out the OTDA [online application form](#).

Residents of Islip

Applications submitted after December 31st, 2022 will be placed on hold until further funding is available. Apply through Town of Islip: [Community Development Agency \(islipcda.org\)](#). Questions? Call (631) 647-5683 or email erap@islipcda.org

OTHER RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Suffolk and Nassau County DSS- The Department of Social Services has programs available to provide help with receiving shelter or rent arrears to prevent homelessness. Please visit <https://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/dss.asp> to find the contact information for your local Department of Social Services.

Nassau Suffolk Law Services, in partnership with Empire Justice Center, can now assist Nassau and Suffolk residential tenants with housing-related legal problems (like eviction) and a household income of up to 80% of the Area Median Income. Services are available through this partnership regardless of immigration status. Please call the office closest to you to see if you are eligible for legal services. Interpreters are available. Suffolk residents west of 112 can call 631-232-2400 and east of 112 can call 631-369-1112. Nassau residents can call 516-292-8100. [Feel free to share our flyer in both English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole](#)

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

LEGAL SUPPORT CENTER FOR ADVOCATES TRAINING:

Getting Ready to Unpause: Student Loan Updates and Repayment Options

**THURSDAY • JUNE 8, 2023
1:00PM-2:00PM**

The Legal Support Center for Advocates presents **"Getting Ready to Unpause: Student Loan Updates and Repayment Options."** Join Consumer Debt Law Project Law Graduate, Michelle Kimpson, on June 8th, 2023 from 1pm to 2pm to learn about the different student loan updates and repayment options that persons with higher education debt can access prior to or once the student loan payments resume this year. [Register in Advance for this Training](#)

PREVIOUS LSCA TRAININGS

On May 25th, 2023, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented **"An Overview of Mental Health Housing on Long Island."** Supervising Attorney, Paola Arango, discussed the different types of mental health housing including an overview of the tenant application process and the rights of tenants in the event of an eviction. [Please register to view the training.](#)

The Legal Support Center for Advocates Training: **"Let's Keep Kids Safe from Bullying: An Overview of the Dignity for All Students Act"** was held virtually on April 27th, 2023. Nassau Suffolk Law Services Supervising Attorney, Lynn Iacona, provided an overview of New York's Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) which seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. [Please register to view the training. The slides can be viewed on our website as well.](#)

The **Social Security Overview: the Application and Appeal Process** LSCA training was held virtually on March 30th, 2023. Nassau Suffolk Law Services Supervising Attorney Sarah Kupferberg reviewed the process for applying for social security disability (SSD and SSI) benefits including the standard and appealing an unfavorable decision. [Please register to view the training.](#)

The **Know Your Rights about Consumer Debt and Consumer Protection** LSCA training was held virtually on March 2nd, 2023. The Nassau Suffolk Law Services Consumer Debt Unit hosted a "Know Your Rights" for consumer debt and consumer protection basics including new laws pertaining to consumer debt and what to do if you have been the victim of a scam. [Please register to view the training. The slides can be viewed on our website as well.](#)

The **Basics of SSI/SSDI Cessation and Overpayment** LSCA training was held virtually by Supervising Attorney John Batanchiev on December 2nd, 2022. This presentation gave an overview of when the Social Security Administration determines that a client does not qualify for SSDI or SSI resulting in an overpayment to the government. We discussed basic information about the SSDI and SSI programs, the income and resource limits for

each program, what a cessation and overpayment issue is, and the ways to resolve it for a client. Please register to [view the training](#).

The **Family Law Basics for Advocates** LSCA training was held virtually by Supervising Attorney Larry Tuthill, Domestic Violence Unit Staff Attorney Kayla Schunk, and Family Law Unit Staff Attorney Vicki Davies on October 27th, 2022. This presentation gave an overview of the basics of common family law topics including custody, support, and orders of protection and where you or your clients can go for more help. Please register to [view the training](#). [View the slides on our website](#).

The **Navigating Special Education in New York** LSCA training was held virtually by Danielle Leake, Education and Disability Rights Unit Staff Attorney, on September 8th, 2022. Ms. Leake gave a general overview of both federal and state special education laws, as well as provided a step-by-step guide on how to navigate and secure special education services for students with disabilities in New York State. Please register to [view the training](#).

[Links to all of our prior trainings can be found on our website.](#)

If your organization is interested in having Nassau Suffolk Law Services present on what services we provide or a specific area of law, please contact the Legal Support Center for Advocates at 631-232-2400 extension 3324 (advocates only).

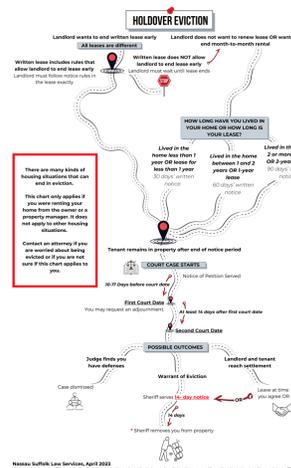
UPCOMING CLINICS, EVENTS, AND LEGAL HELP RESOURCES

We recently updated our Eviction Timelines:

[Holdover Eviction Timeline \(English\)](#)
[Holdover Eviction Timeline \(Spanish\)](#)

[Nonpayment Eviction Timeline \(English\)](#)
[Nonpayment Eviction Timeline \(Spanish\)](#)

Feel free to download and share. Other self-help legal resources in the area of Education Law, Consumer Law, Family Law, Housing Law, Medical, Public Benefits, Social Security, and Veterans can be [found on our website](#).



DO YOU NEED HELP WITH A LEGAL PROBLEM?
The Community Legal Help Project will have volunteer attorneys giving free legal information to Suffolk County residents ONLY. Dates and locations listed below.

<p>THURSDAY JUNE 1 3PM-6PM MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY AT CENTEREACH ATTORNEYS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE LEGAL INFORMATION TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody) Marital Domestic 	<p>THURSDAY JUNE 15 3PM-6PM MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY AT CENTEREACH ATTORNEYS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE LEGAL INFORMATION TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody) Marital Domestic Immigration Medicaid Medicaid Applications, Wills, Living Wills, Power of Attorney, Healthcare Proxy/Medicaid Fair Hearing)
<p>TUESDAY JUNE 6 3PM-5PM BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY ATTORNEYS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE LEGAL INFORMATION TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody) Marital Domestic Immigration 	<p>TUESDAY JUNE 20 3PM-5PM BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY ATTORNEYS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE LEGAL INFORMATION TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody, Order of Protection, CPS - Not For Hearings or Adjudication) Marital Domestic Central (Traffic/Motor Vehicle, Post-conviction) Immigration
<p>THURSDAY JUNE 8 3PM-6PM MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY AT CENTEREACH ATTORNEYS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE LEGAL INFORMATION TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody, Order of Protection, CPS - Not For Hearings or Adjudication) Marital Domestic Central (Traffic/Motor Vehicle, Post-conviction) Immigration Mortgage Foreclosure 	<p>THURSDAY JUNE 22 3PM-6PM PATCHOGUE MEDFORD LIBRARY ATTORNEYS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE LEGAL INFORMATION TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody) Marital Domestic Immigration
<p>TUESDAY JUNE 13 3PM-5PM BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY ATTORNEYS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE LEGAL INFORMATION TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody) Marital Domestic Immigration 	<p>TUESDAY JUNE 27 3PM-6PM BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY ATTORNEYS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE LEGAL INFORMATION TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family (Child Support, Visitation, Custody) Marital Domestic Immigration

Appointments preferred: Walk-ins welcome. Call (631) 822-3272 for more information or to schedule appointments with an attorney.

Upcoming Community Legal Help Project dates

Our Community Legal Help Project will be at the Brentwood Public Library every Tuesday and the Middle Country Public Library (Centereach) every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Thursday. **During the month of June, we will be at the Patchogue Library on June 22nd!** Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. To make an appointment or for other legal issues not listed, please call our hotline at (631) 822-3272.

Our Community Legal Help Project June Flyers are in both English and Spanish and can be found on [our website](#).

The Community Legal Help Project is seeking volunteer attorneys with experience in matrimonial, family, and immigration law to give half-hour consultations during our library hours. If you are interested, please [email us](#) today!

2023 SPRING COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE GALA

Thank you to those who attended and supported Law Services' 2023 Commitment to Justice Reception on May 10th, 2023. It was a great success! Pictures of the event will be posted on our website soon! Stay tuned. [Please take a look at our journal ads](#) displayed the night of the gala including congratulations to our honorees and Law Services' statistics on how your support helps Long Island.



NSLS OPEN POSITIONS

Are you looking to give back to the community while also getting paid? We would love to have you apply for our currently open attorney, paralegal, and receptionist positions. To find out more, go to [our website](#).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

we need you

Matrimonial, Family Law, and Immigration Volunteer Attorneys Needed

TO ASSIST WITH ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY:

GIVING 30 MINUTE CONSULTATIONS TO ASSIST OUR
SUFFOLK COMMUNITY LEGAL HELP PROJECT (ALL AREAS)

AND/OR

PROVIDING FULL REPRESENTATION FOR NASSAU AND
SUFFOLK DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS AND LOW-
INCOME RESIDENTS (MATRIMONIAL AND FAMILY)

Contact Sharon Campo at scampo@nsls.legal or
(631) 232-2400 ext. 3368.

A little more about our volunteer needs:

- Volunteer attorneys needed to assist pro bono clients with direct client representation in family, bankruptcy, matrimonial, and elder law
- Provide half-hour legal consultations with our Suffolk County library project in immigration, matrimonial, family, landlord/tenant, elder, consumer, and more
- Law Student / Paralegal/ Pre-law undergraduate internships
- Assist Law Services Staff with intake, case analysis, case referral, and recruitment of volunteer attorneys
- Nassau County Volunteer Landlord/Tenant Attorney for a Day

GIVE AND MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE FOR LONGISLANDERS IN NEED

This year we reach out to all of our supporters in hopes that you will continue to support Law Services, the largest provider of free civil legal assistance to Long Islanders in need. The past few years have shown us when we help, respect, and support each other, together we can accomplish anything, and our Long Island communities will once again thrive. For many Long Islanders, having a stable income, permanent housing, access to healthcare, and, most importantly, access to equal justice under law, gives them the support they need to begin to rebuild their lives. Your continued support can really make a difference to your neighbors in need by assisting Nassau Suffolk Law Services in "Doing What's Legally Possible to Create a Just World." We are Long Islanders helping Long Islanders.

Support Law Services' Programs

NASSAU SUFFOLK LAW SERVICES
631 232-2400 | 516 292-8100 | 631 369-1112
www.nslawservices.org

Was this email forwarded to you? Stay up to date all year round by [signing up for our Legal Lessons.](#)

