

November 26th, 2024



Where Dignity Meets Justice

This Thanksgiving, we extend our warmest thanks for your trust and support. At Legal Services of Long Island, we are deeply thankful for the opportunity to provide our community with much-needed legal services. May your holiday be filled with joy and appreciation.

NOVEMBER ADVOCACY TIPS

1 Legal Services of Long Island Has A New Unit!

We are excited to announce that Legal Services of Long Island is launching the **Citizenship and Naturalization Project** to provide free immigration-related legal services to eligible low-income residents of Nassau and Suffolk Counties. We are currently accepting requests for assistance from legal permanent residents (Green Card holders) who want to apply for U.S. citizenship. Legal Permanent Residents are eligible to apply for citizenship after five years, or three if they are married to a U.S. citizen. We can also assist U.S. citizens who need help proving their citizenship through certificates of citizenship. Next year, we will seek to partner with the private bar to expand the reach of this naturalization program. In the future, we look forward to offering a broader range of services, including immigration assistance for victims of trafficking or domestic violence.

To be screened for eligibility for the Citizenship and Naturalization Project, Nassau residents can call 516-292-8100 and Suffolk residents can call 631-232-2400

Improper Billing Resources for Medicare Enrollees in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program

2

Medicare enrollees who are in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program—a Medicaid program that pays for Medicare costs—should not be billed for healthcare costs, with a few exceptions. Unfortunately, QMB enrollees often face medical bills that are issued to them improperly.

Improper billing (also sometimes referred to as "balance billing") occurs when doctors, hospitals, or other providers charge beneficiaries with both Medicaid and Medicare for co-pays, co-insurance, or deductibles.

Patients who have both Medicaid and Medicare (including Medicare Advantage) should never be charged for services covered under Medicaid or Medicare. Billing for covered services is illegal under both federal and state law.

QMBs whose provider will not stop billing them for items and services that Medicare covers can contact 1-800-MEDICARE. Consumers can also submit complaints about their debt collection issues by contacting the Consumer Protection Financial Bureau at (855) 411-2372.

Legal Services of Long Island's Senior Citizen Law Project provides legal representation, advice, and referrals to Nassau County seniors in matters involving housing, health care, and social security. The Project also assists with wills, power of attorney and health care proxy forms, pooled trusts, Medicaid planning, consumer debt, and utility shut-offs.

With specific funding from the Nassau County Office for the Aging, the Project assists Nassau County seniors age 60 and older who have a legal issue that meets our priority guidelines.

Telephone consultations assist clients with problem analysis, information, and referral. Individual cases are accepted for representation after case evaluation. Special visits can be arranged for those who are homebound, in-hospital, or nursing home residents.

In addition to the "Helpline" and legal representation, the Project collaborates with Senior Citizen social agencies, provides training, and participates in community information events that target seniors. Nassau residents can call 516-292-8100.

3

Social Security Benefits for Family Members of the Retired or Disabled Beneficiaries.

For those receiving Social Security retirement benefits, some family members may also qualify to receive benefits. Spouses, ex-spouses, and children of the retired worker or disabled worker may receive a monthly payment of up to one-half of the retirement benefit amount. These Social Security payments to family members will not decrease the amount of the worker's retirement benefit. When a worker dies, certain family members may be eligible for survivor's benefits. Widows, widowers, surviving divorced spouses, children, and dependent parents may qualify for benefits on the deceased worker's record. To learn more or to apply for benefits, visit the [Social Security Administration's website](#).

HEAP Opened on November 1st, 2024

4

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps low-income people pay the cost of heating their homes. If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per season and could also be eligible for an emergency HEAP benefit if you are in impending danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off. This benefit is only open from November 1st through the winter or until funding runs out. Eligible New Yorkers can get up to \$1,000 to cover heating bills, \$4,000 to repair a boiler, and \$8,000 for a boiler replacement. To learn more or to apply, please visit the [Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance website](#) or go to your local Department of Social Services office in [Suffolk](#) or [Nassau](#).

The 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

also assist low-income households in obtaining rent supplements from DSS to enable families to leave the shelters or retain permanent housing. Nassau residents can call 516-292-8100 and Suffolk residents can call 631-232-2400.

5


Housing Insecurity Prevention Assistance Programs Open

Town of Babylon's Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program opened on December 18th, 2023. This program is for extremely low-income households who are in rental arrears to help residents regain housing stability and prevent homelessness. For more information and to apply, [please visit Long Island Housing Partnership's website](#).

Town of Babylon's Mortgage Arrears Program opened on February 27th, 2024. The Town of Brookhaven (Town) is making CDBG-CV funds available for low to moderate-income Town of Babylon residents with mortgage arrears incurred due to a COVID-19-related loss of income. Funds will cover a maximum of 6 consecutive months of arrears, subject to a cap of \$50,000, and are paid directly to the lender. For more information and to apply, [please visit the Long Island Housing Partnership's website](#).

Legal Services of Long Island, 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](#)

Check out our latest Know Your Rights Tenant fact sheets in English, Spanish, and Creole.



Know your rights: Tenants

Legal Services of Long Island (LSI) is committed to helping people in need assert and secure their rights under the law. Established in 1966, LSI was one of the first Legal Services Corporation programs in New York State. We provide free legal services in thousands of civil (non-criminal) cases each year, as well as legal support to community advocates to ensure that people with low incomes and disabilities have equal access to the civil justice system on Long Island.

Types of Landlord/Tenant Cases


- Non-Payment** - This type of case is initiated by a landlord to collect unpaid rent.
- Holdover** - This case is seen when the tenant remains in the property after the expiration of the lease.
- Post Foreclosure Holdover** - This refers to a situation in which a tenant remains in a property after it has been foreclosed upon and transferred to a new owner.

Notices you may Receive Before a Case is Scheduled for Court

In a non-payment eviction case, the landlord must send 2 late rent notices before taking the tenant to court. The first notice is a **14-day late rent notice**. If the tenant doesn't pay rent after the first notice, they will receive a **14-day rent demand**, after which the court case begins, and the **notice of petition** is served. The holdover eviction process is different as it depends on how long a tenant has lived in the home or the length of the lease. If a tenant has lived in the home less than a year OR leased for less than 1 year, the **30 days written notice** is given. If a tenant has lived in the home between 1 and 2 years OR leased for 1 year, the **60 days' written notice** is given. If a tenant has lived in the home 2 or more years OR leased for 2 years, the **90 days' written notice** is given. In this case, after the tenant remains in the property after the end of the notice period, the **notice of petition** is served.

Documents to Bring to Court

- Notice of Petition/Petition
- Receipts of Rent Paid
- Pictures of Habitability Issues
- Lease

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www.instagram.com/legalservicesllc
www.facebook.com/legalservicesllc


The information contained in this material is not legal advice. Legal advice depends upon the specific facts of a particular case. Also, the law may vary from state to state. This information is not intended to be used as a basis for your decision. Finally, this information is not guaranteed to be up to date. The material contained on this site cannot replace the advice of a competent legal professional licensed to practice law.

1 of 2 www.legalservicesllc.org



Conozca sus derechos: Arrendatario

Tipo de Arrendador / Caso de Alquiler


- Falta de pago** este tipo surge por no haber pagado el alquiler.
- Remanente** este caso se ve cuando el inquilino se queda en la propiedad después de la expiración del contrato de arrendamiento.
- Post Surprise Holdover** - Esto se refiere a una situación en la que un inquilino vive en una propiedad después de que ha sido cerrada y transferida a un nuevo propietario.

Avisos que puede recibir antes de un caso programado para la corte

En un caso de desalojo por falta de pago, el propietario debe enviar 2 avisos tarde antes de que el inquilino sea llevado a la corte. El primer aviso es un aviso de alquiler con 14 días de retraso, si el inquilino no paga el alquiler después del primer aviso, se recibirá una solicitud de alquiler 14 días después de que comience el caso judicial y se entregará el aviso de solicitud de la petición. El proceso de desalojo por remanente es diferente, ya que depende de cuánto tiempo haya vivido el inquilino en la casa o de la duración del contrato de arrendamiento. Si un inquilino vive en la casa menos de un año o menos de 1 año, se notifica por escrito con 30 días de anticipación. Si un inquilino vive en la casa entre 1 y 2 años o menos durante 1 año, se notifica por escrito con 60 días de anticipación. Si un inquilino vive en la casa con 2 o más años de antigüedad, el aviso de 90 días se emite por escrito. En este caso, después de que el inquilino permanezca en la propiedad después del final del período de notificación, se notifica la petición.

Documentos para Llevar a la corte

- Avisos de Petición / Peticiones
- Recibos de alquiler pagados
- Problemas de Imagen Hábitos
- Arrendamiento

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1 of 2 www.legalservicesllc.org



Konnen dwa ou yo: lokatè (moun ki lwe kay)

Kalite Mèt kay / Ka Lokasyon

- Peman Pa-Peyè** - Kalite ka sa inisyè pa youn mèt kay pou solèkte kob lwaye ki pa peye.
- Holdover** - Ka sa rele lokatè a rete nan pwopriyete a apre ekspirasyon kontra lwaye a.
- Aprè Sèzi Holdover** - Sa a refere a yon sityasyon kote youn lokatè rete nan youn pwopriyete apre yo sèzi li sou li epi ki transfere ak youn nouvo pwopriyete.

Avi ou ka resevwa anvan youn ka pwogram pou Tribinal la

Nan youn ka manje lokalizasyon ki pa peye (eviksyon), mèt kay la dwe voye 2 avi permanan rete anvan yo mennen lokatè a nan tribinal. Premye avi a se youn avi lwaye permanan pou an rete, si lokatè a pa peye lwaye a apre premye avi sa a, ap resevwa youn avi 14 jou demannan kob lwaye apre sa ka tribinal la konmanse, epi avi rekiel petisyon an sèvi. Pwosesis eviksyon Holdover a diferan paske li depann de konbyen tan youn lokatè te viv nan kay la. Oson tanje kontra lwaye a, si youn lokatè ap viv nan kay la mwa sipèyè youn ane oubyen mwens gen youn kontra lwaye pou l'ane, yo bay avi 30 jou anvan si youn lokatè ap viv nan kay la ant 1 ak 2 ane oubyen di pitit pandan l'ane, yo bay avi 60 jou anvan. Si youn lokatè ap viv nan kay la 2 oubyen plis pase 2 ane, yo bay avi 90 jou anvan. Nan ka sa a, apre lokatè a rete nan pwopriyete apre fran periyod avi a, yo sèzi li nan petisyon an.

Dokiman pou pote nan Tribinal

- Avi Petisyon / Pétisyon
- Resi perman lwaye
- Foto ki montre pwoblèm
- Kontra lwaye

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1 of 2 www.legalservicesllc.org

Fact Sheets on Illegal Evictions in Suffolk County in English, Spanish, and Creole

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

ILLEGAL EVICTIONS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY AND HOW TO STOP THEM

Sometimes, Suffolk County landlords will try to make a tenant move by **doing things that are illegal**. For instance:

1. Throw furniture and belongings in the street
2. Remove the doors
3. Padlock the doors
4. Change the locks
5. Turn off the heat or electricity
6. Turn off the water
7. Keep your belongings
8. Threaten to use, or actually use violence

WHAT TO DO

If the landlord tries to illegally evict you, you must immediately call or go to the police, regardless if the police will intervene as outlined in the Suffolk County Police Order Number 9217. At this order distinguishes between those with "written evidence" of their tenancy and those who do not. We urge tenants who suspect their landlord will act illegally to keep with them all at three copies of their receipts and a copy of mail addressed to the real estate agent's agreement, or the landlord's statement from the welfare department.

Unfortunately, there are still police officers who continue to believe that illegal evictions are "not a matter" and refuse to do anything at the scene. If this is the case, you should demand to file a police report, get the name and badge number of the responding officers, and arrange to go as soon as possible to the local police precinct. You must show them the new version of the "Police Officer's Action and Proceedings" Law Sec. 709 (enforced through missing an annual recertification) and the police directive and the police directive and work up the chain of command there until someone does something.

Naturally, the tenant should also call Legal Services of Long Island if they live west of Route 112 (Rt. 112) or east of Rt. 112 (Rt. 112) and arrange for emergency housing and storage in the case of a utility shut-off by the landlord. The tenant can also call the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SDHS) to file a complaint with the local health department and ask them to intervene.

AFTERWARDS

If the landlord pulls off an illegal eviction, the tenant can file an Order to Show Cause in their local court and request to be rehoused to the property (OPAP, 71320).

The tenant can sue for three times the damages he/she suffers (90465, 853). Despite the crisis nature of the situation, the tenant should go to court to keep proof of their damages: pictures of the destroyed property; receipts for additional expenses incurred; witness, police or health department reports, etc.

If the damages are less than \$5,000, the tenant can sue the former landlord in small claims court if the damages are more than \$5,000, the tenant can hire a private attorney to take his/her case on a contingency fee basis. This means that the attorney will require no money down, but will take one-third of what is won. For guidance with your Small Claims Court, you can call NYSCJ, page 222-3300.

Furthermore, under the recently enacted Statewide Housing Security and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 (Law Sec. 709), tenants may be able to sue to have your landlord arrested (once a misdemeanor) and/or sue your landlord for damages ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for the illegal eviction, and an additional \$100,000 if any damages went to your landlord's relatives you to the premises.

See descriptions of the new evictions law on page 2

1 of 2 www.legal-services.org

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

DESALOJOS ILEGALES EN CONDADO DE SUFFOLK Y CÓMO DETENERLOS O QUÉ HACER

A veces, los propietarios del condado de Suffolk intentar hacer que un inquilino se mueva haciendo cosas que son ilegales. Por ejemplo:

1. Tirar muebles y pertenencias a la calle
2. Retirar las puertas
3. Cierre con candado de las puertas
4. Cambiar las cerraduras
5. Apagar la calefacción o la electricidad
6. Cerrar el agua
7. Guardar sus pertenencias
8. Amenazar con usar, o de hecho usar la violencia.

QUÉ HACER

Si el propietario intenta desalojarle ilegalmente, debe llamar inmediatamente o ir a la policía. Con suerte, la policía intervendrá, como se describe en el "Orden de Policía del Condado de Suffolk" número 9217. Este orden distingue entre aquellos con "evidencia escrita" de su tenencia y aquellos que no la tienen. Le aconsejamos que mantenga con usted tres copias de sus recibos y una copia de su contrato de arrendamiento o acuerdo del agente de bienes raíces o la declaración del propietario del departamento de bienestar social.

Desafortunadamente, todavía hay oficiales de policía que siguen creyendo que los desalojos ilegales son "un asunto menor" y se niegan a hacer algo en el lugar de los hechos. Si este es el caso, usted debe exigir que se presente un informe policial, obtener el nombre y el número de placa de los oficiales que responden, y arreglar para ir tan pronto como sea posible al distrito local de policía. Debe mostrarle la nueva versión de la Ley, Ley de Acciones y Procedimientos de Bienes Raíces, Ley Sec. 709 (enforcada por falta de recertificación anual) y la directiva de la policía y avanzar en la cadena de mando allí hasta que alguien haga algo.

Naturalmente, el inquilino también debería llamar a los Servicios de Salud de Long Island si vive al oeste de la Ruta 112 (Rt. 112) o al este de la Rt. 112 (Rt. 112) y organizar una vivienda de emergencia y almacenamiento de bienes en el caso de un corte de servicios públicos. El inquilino también puede llamar al Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Condado de Suffolk (SDHS) al 609-830-1900 o al departamento de construcción de la ciudad local y pedirles que intervengan.

DESPUES

Si el arrendador logra a cabo un desalojo ilegal, el inquilino puede presentar una Orden para mostrar causa en Tribunal local y solicitar que se le restituya la propiedad (OPAP, 71320).

El inquilino puede demandar por tres veces los daños y perjuicios que sufre (90465, 853). A pesar de la naturaleza de crisis en la que se encuentra, el inquilino debe tener cuidado de guardar pruebas de sus daños: fotos de la propiedad destruida; recibos por gastos adicionales incurridos; informes de testigos, policía o departamento de salud, etc.

Si los daños son menos de \$5,000, el inquilino puede demandar al antiguo propietario en un tribunal de pequeñas reclamaciones. Si los daños son más de \$5,000, el inquilino debería contratar un abogado que tome su caso en un litigio de contingencia. Esto significa que el abogado no requiere un dinero adelantado, sino que cobrará un tercio de lo que se gana. Para orientación con su caso en el Tribunal de Reclamaciones Pequeñas, puede llamar a NYSCJ, página 222-3300.

Además, en virtud de la Ley (Estado de Seguridad de la Vivienda y Protección del Inquilino de 2019) (Ley Sec. 709), los inquilinos pueden ser capaces de demandar al propietario (una vez que sea un delito) y demandar a su arrendador por daños y perjuicios que oscilan entre \$10,000 y \$100,000 por el desalojo ilegal, y un adicional de \$100,000 si los daños y perjuicios fueron para el inquilino o sus familiares.

Vea las descripciones de la ley que describe los desalojos ilegales en la página 2.

1 of 2 www.legal-services.org

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

DEEVIKSIÓN ILEGAL NĀN KONTE SUFFOLK AK KI JAN YO SISPANN YO

Patent, psonifikat man Suffolk county nat eseye pa fe bagay ki ilegal meten nan kosa deya. Pou egzamp:

1. Mete meub a jafow nan lan a
2. Retiree pòt yo
3. Kafowee pòt yo
4. Chanje kafow yo
5. Ferme chofe a owa elektrisite
6. Ferme dlo a
7. Kenbe jafw ou yo
8. Amenase pou itilize owa aktyaman itilize violans

KISA POU WÈ

Si met kay la ap eseye mete ou degi legatman, ou deve imediyaman rete owa alle nan lapolis. Espere ke lapolis va entere pa sa entree nan "Ordre Polye Konte Suffolk" Nòmbrè 9217. Kon lòd sa a distinga ant moun ki gen "evide avè" nan lokay yo de moun ki pa fe sa, nou mete enfaz nan moun ki pa sa ki sa ki ilegalman pou fèyo pou evite yo. Nou tan lòd nan departman Byenèt Sosyal.

Malavèntan, toujou gen ofisyè polye ki kontinye kwè ke degisyon ilegal yo se "afè min" epi refize fe anyen nan lan nan. Si sa se ka ou, ou ta deve mande pou showdown pou rapò lapolis. Demande pou fè rapò, obtèn non epi nòmbrè de plak ofisyè ki responn, epi aranje pou ale tan bon jan posib nan distrikt lokal de polis. Debe montre nou vèsyon nouvo de "Ley de Aksyon e Prosediman de Bienes Raíces, Ley Sec. 709 (enforsé travè rekertifkasyon anwal) epi direktiv de polis e avanse nan la cadena de mando all hasta que alguien haga algo.

Naturalman, kòsòd sa ta deve rete ou Sèvi Legal nan Long Island si yo ap viv nan twa Wout 112 (Rt. 112) owa est de Wout 112 (Rt. 112) epi fe aranje pou logman gade ak depo nan Departman Sèvi Sosyal.

Nan ka yon kòsòd de sèvis publik yo, pati del propyete, el inquilin tamben pwen lamar al Departman de sèvis lokal el Condado de Suffolk (SDHS) al 609-830-1900 o al departman de konstruksyon de la ciudad local y pedirles que intervengan.

APRESA

Si el arrendador logra a cabo un desalojo ilegal, el inquilino puede presentar una Orden para mostrar causa en Tribunal local y solicitar que se le restituya la propiedad (OPAP, 71320).

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1 of 2 www.legal-services.org

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

LEGAL SUPPORT CENTER FOR ADVOCATES TRAINING

Legal Services of Long Island's Legal Support Center for Advocates presents "Emergency Housing Assistance on Long Island" on Friday, December 6th, from 1 pm to 2 pm.

The Legal Support Center for Advocates presents, "Emergency Housing Assistance on Long Island." Join us on Friday, December 6th, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm to learn about Department of Social Services services and procedures, as well as resources, when assisting a client in need of emergency housing assistance. [Please register for this Legal Support Center for Advocates training taking place on December 6th, 2024 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm.](#)

Did you miss our past LSCA presentations? Check them out today!

On Tuesday, November 12th, Legal Services of Long Island's Legal Support Center for Advocates and the Education and Disability Rights Project Attorneys presented "Know Your Rights: Contemporary Issues in Education." We discussed steps in the special education classification process, independent educational evaluations, and the declassification procedure of a student with an IEP. Further, we discussed the school procedure for disenrolling a student, the rules regarding school attendance in New York, and what to do when your child is being bullied in school. [Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#)

On October 30th, 2024, Legal Services of Long Island's Legal Support Center for Advocates presented "Knowledge is Power: Legal Steps After a Domestic Violence Incident." Supervising Attorney Larry Tuthill discussed orders of protection, child custody orders, and how to be evaluated for services by the Suffolk County Domestic Violence Project. [Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#)

Legal Services of Long Island's Legal Support Center for Advocates presented, "Understanding the 17A Guardianship Option for Parents" on October 29th, 2024. We discussed resources, services, and procedures that can assist your clients considering a 17A guardianship for their intellectually or developmentally disabled child. Also, learn how your clients may be eligible for our upcoming FREE legal clinic which will provide free advice and

counsel to individuals considering the 17A Guardianship process. *Please note that this presentation is appropriate for advocates and professional staff only. This is not a presentation geared towards parents* [Slides can be accessed on our website.](#) [View the training on our YouTube Channel.](#)

On October 17th, 2024, Legal Services of Long Island presented "**Know Your Rights About Medical Debt.**" Supervising Attorney Sharon Campo provided medical debt updates and reviewed ways to prevent and combat medical debt. [Slides can be accessed on our website.](#) [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#)

On September 13th, 2024, The Legal Support Center for Advocates presented "**Understanding the Importance of Advanced Care Directives**". We discussed basic advanced care directives you or your clients may need while planning for their future. Also, learn how you or your clients may be eligible to attend our upcoming Advance Care Planning Clinic. [Slides can be accessed on our website.](#) [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#)

On August 28th, 2024, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented "**Empowering Your Future: Managing Student Loan Debt.**" Nassau Suffolk Law Services' Legal Support Center for Advocates welcomed Nancy Nierman of the Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP). Ms. Nierman provided updates on the current student loan landscape including repayment options and other ways to discharge your student loans. EDCAP is a program of the Community Service Society of New York. [Slides can be accessed on our website..](#) [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#)

On March 7th, 2024, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented "**Insights Into Attaining Student Debt Relief.**" Nancy Nierman of the Community Service Society's Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP) provides expert guidance and essential insights on attaining student debt relief and navigating repayment. During the training, we review repayment options, with a focus on the new SAVE plan, and provide practical solutions and advice for struggling borrowers. We provided an overview of federal forgiveness and discharge options and the One-Time Payment Count Adjustment that grants additional credit toward some of those programs. [Please register to view this training.](#)

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

Did you miss any of our *Programs of Legal Services of Long Island* Presentations? Feel free to watch them on [our YouTube Channel!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

17-A Guardianship Clinic

In Suffolk County, our Suffolk County Pro Bono Project is teaming up with volunteer attorneys to provide eligible low-income Suffolk County residents with advice counsel and information on 17-A Guardianships to Parents/Caretakers. Spread the word by [downloading our flyer.](#)

Once a client is determined eligible, they can meet with a volunteer attorney to ask questions and receive advice and counsel on the 17-A Guardianship process.

Interested Suffolk County residents should call [\(631\) 232-2400](#) ext. 3331 by December 1st. Clients should leave their name and contact

information and we will get back to them to set up an eligibility intake appointment.



FREE UPCOMING LEGAL CLINIC

Advice, Counsel and Information on 17A Guardianships for Parents/Caretakers

Legal Services of Long Island is hosting a FREE Advice and Counsel Clinic in December of 2024 for eligible low-income Suffolk County residents at our Islandia office.

Once a client is determined eligible, they can meet with an attorney to receive advice and counsel about the 17A Guardianship process. Clients can ask questions and get feedback about their specific situation on how to file a 17A Guardianship for their intellectually or developmentally disabled child. This clinic is appropriate for parents of disabled children aged 17 years old or older.

Interested Suffolk County residents should call 631-232-2400 ext. 3331 by December 1, 2024 to be screened for eligibility.



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After an intake appointment is completed and eligibility is determined, clients will be invited to the advance planning clinic in December which will be conducted in person at our Islandia office. If you or your clients have any questions, please email Suffolkprobono@legalservicesli.org and include the words "Advance Planning Clinic" in the subject line.

Interested in volunteering? If you are an admitted attorney and are interested in volunteering for the clinic, please contact Sharon Campo at scampo@legalservicesli.org.

Upcoming Community Legal Help Project locations, dates, and times for Nassau and Suffolk County [can be found on our website.](#)

PRO BONO ATTORNEYS NEEDED

A little more about our volunteer needs:

Nassau County

Volunteer Lawyers Project

The Volunteer Lawyers Project is an innovative pro bono program to expand the availability of legal services to Nassau County residents in need. The Project provides an opportunity for attorneys to represent clients and volunteer their time and expertise by providing free legal services. The Volunteer Lawyers Project needs pro bono assistance in the areas of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, Divorce, Article 17A Guardianships, Health Care Proxies, Name Changes, Power of Attorney, and Wills.

Contact: Reisa Brafman, Esq., [516-292-8100](tel:516-292-8100) ext. 3380, rbrafman@legalservicesli.org

Bankruptcy Clinics through the Volunteer Lawyers Project

Currently, clinic appointments are one-on-one with attorneys consulting with clients in person, by phone, or virtually. Volunteer attorneys guide those considering bankruptcy, screening for referral to pro bono attorneys for filing of Chapter 7 petitions. This is a limited engagement, though participating attorneys may also be referred cases.

Contact: Reisa Brafman, Esq., [516-292-8100](tel:516-292-8100) ext. 3380, rbrafman@legalservicesli.org

Community Legal Help Project

The Community Legal Help Project recently expanded into Nassau County. We are looking for attorneys to provide pro bono half-hour consultations with Nassau County Residents. The areas of law most in need are immigration, family, matrimonial, elder, and bankruptcy.

Contact: Roberta Scoll, Esq., [516-292-8100](tel:516-292-8100) ext. 3115, rscoll@legalservicesli.org

Pro Bono Project

The Pro Bono Project is an innovative pro bono program to expand the availability of legal services to Suffolk County residents in need. The Project provides an opportunity for attorneys to represent clients and volunteer their time and expertise by providing free legal services. The Pro Bono Project needs pro bono assistance in the areas of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, Divorce, Article 17A Guardianships, Health Care Proxies, Name Changes, Power of Attorneys, and Wills.

Contact: Kiersten Bartolotta, Esq., [631-232-2400](tel:631-232-2400) ext. 3311, kbartolotta@legalservicesli.org

The Suffolk County Pro Bono Project is now on Paladin! [Please take a look at our current volunteer attorney opportunities and connect with us!](#)

Community Legal Help Project

The Community Legal Help Project (CLHP) is a partnership of legal providers created by the NYS Permanent Commission on Access to Justice and the Suffolk County Access to Justice Committee. The CLHP's network of non-profit partners and pro bono volunteers currently provides legal information and referrals, and limited-scope representation through a phone line and brief in-person consultations at public libraries. Attorneys with a background in immigration, family, elder and/or matrimonial law are needed to assist the community.

Volunteer attorneys can dedicate their time monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or at their leisure.

Contact: Rashika Hettiarachchi, Esq., [631-232-2400](tel:631-232-2400) ext. 3391, rhettiarachchi@legalservicesli.org

Did you hear our exciting news? **Nassau Suffolk Law Services is now Legal Services of Long Island**, highlighting our role as the region's largest non-profit provider of free civil legal assistance, fighting for our most vulnerable neighbors in our local justice systems, and advocating where you need us most. While our name has evolved, our mission remains the same: to provide unwavering legal support.



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Join Nassau Suffolk Law Services as we continue to illuminate pathways to justice under our new name, **Legal Services of Long Island (LSLI)**. Help us guide our communities and neighbors in need towards accessible free legal services for all.

[Watch Us Evolve](#)



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Legal Services of Long Island is a 501(c)(3) and your donation is 100% tax-deductible. Join us in our mission to provide free, quality civil legal representation to Long Island's neediest residents.

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