

March 19th, 2025



Where Dignity Meets Justice

## MARCH ADVOCACY TIPS

### 1 New York State Child Support Services

A child support petition can be filed by either the person caring for the child, the Department of Social Services, or the child. Did you know that New York State's Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has a Department of Child Support Services? The Child Support Program provides custodial parents with assistance in obtaining financial support and medical insurance coverage for their children by locating parents, establishing parentage, establishing or modifying support orders, and collecting and disbursing child support payments. Any parent, guardian, caretaker of a child, or child who needs support can enroll in child support services. Anyone who applies for public assistance (Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance) may be referred for child support services without having to enroll. Medicaid applicants may also be referred for child support services to establish parentage and obtain medical support. [To learn more, visit the child support services website.](#)

*LSLI's Suffolk Pro Bono Project provides low-income eligible Suffolk County residents with advice and counsel from a private volunteer attorney on child support matters. To be screened for services, please call 631-232-2400.*

### New York's Language Access Policies

Under New York's language access law, all State agencies that interact with the public must provide interpretation services in any language with respect to the provision of agency services or benefits and must translate vital agency documents into the top 12 most commonly spoken non-English languages among limited English proficient (LEP) New Yorkers based on Census data. In addition, State agencies also have the option to offer up to four additional languages beyond the required 12 based on factors such as regional language access needs, the number of recently arrived immigrants who have limited English proficiency, feedback from community groups, and the populations of individuals with limited English proficiency most commonly served by different agencies. If you have a court appearance, it is important to inform the court prior to the court date so they have enough time to arrange for an interpreter to be at the court date.

# 2

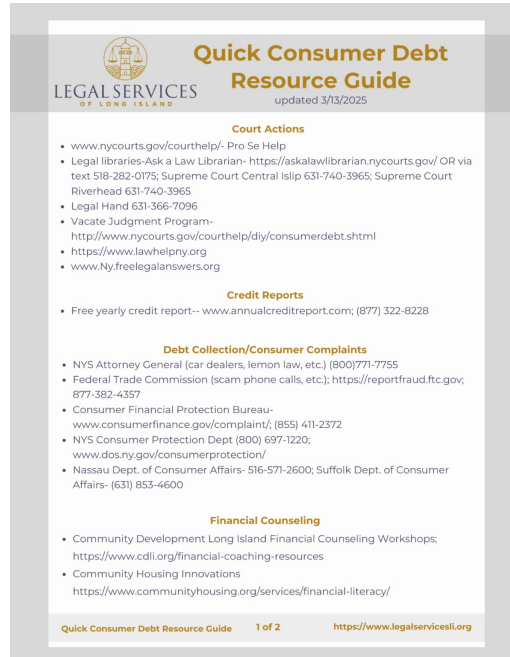
## 3 New York Immigrant Services Law

The New York Immigrant Services Law mandates important requirements for immigrant assistance service providers, or non-attorneys who offer limited immigration assistance to the public. Under this law, providers **cannot** (1) give legal advice or counsel a person on their eligibility for immigration status, including how to fill out answers on immigration forms, (2) state or hint that they can influence, or get special favors or specific outcomes from, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Executive Office for Immigration Review, or any other government entity, or (3) demand a fee for providing immigration forms or a referral to a qualified legal service provider. Providers **must** provide written contracts in the language understood by the immigrant customer and post clear, multi-lingual, signage about the limited scope of their services. Further, customers can cancel their contracts and get a refund and have their original documents and immigration file returned to them, even if there is a fee dispute. Anyone who believes they have been scammed or to report an entity that is not following the law can make a complaint to the NY Attorney General at [1-800-771-7755](tel:1-800-771-7755).

## Updated Consumer Debt Resource Guide

# 4

Our updated Quick Consumer Debt Resource Guide is here to guide you to the different entities depending upon your consumer issue whether it is medical debt, court actions, debt collection, or utilities.



[Download our guide today!](#)

*LSLI's Consumer Debt Legal Assistance Project provides legal assistance to persons who are experiencing consumer debt problems, especially in matters of medical and credit card debt. Services may include litigation defense and representation, phone advice, and/or referral for further services, including bankruptcy where appropriate. To be screened for services, Nassau residents can call 516-292-8100 and Suffolk County residents can call 631-232-2400.*

# 5

## Housing Insecurity Prevention Assistance Programs Open

### Suffolk County Down Payment Assistance Program Open until April 1, 2025.

The Suffolk County HOME Consortium down payment assistance funds are essentially zero-interest deferred loans that are forgiven after 10 years. The assistance provided will be up to \$30,000 for eligible applicants to assist with the down payment toward the purchase of an owner-occupied, single-family residence. For more information and to apply, [please visit Long Island Housing Partnership's website.](#)

**Nassau County Down Payment Assistance Program Open Until June 18th, 2025.** The Nassau County HOME Down Payment Assistance Program will provide eligible first-time homebuyers with up to \$50,000 towards down payment/closing costs towards the purchase of an eligible new or existing single-family home, provided that the applicant is income-eligible and meets all program requirements. For more information and to apply, [please visit Long Island Housing Partnership's website.](#)

**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.*

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

<p><b>LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>Know your rights: Tenants</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Types of Landlord/Tenant Cases</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Non-Payment.</b> This type of case is initiated by a landlord to collect unpaid rent.</li> <li>• <b>Holdover.</b> This case is seen when the tenant remains in the property after the expiration of the lease.</li> <li>• <b>Post-Foreclosure Holdover.</b> 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Notices you may Receive Before a Case is Scheduled for Court</b></p> <p>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 <b>3-day late rent notice</b>. If the tenant doesn't pay rent after the first notice, they will receive a <b>14-day rent demand</b>, after which the court case begins, and the <b>notice of petition</b> is served. The holdover eviction process is different as it depends on how long a tenant has lived in the home for the length of the lease. If a tenant has lived in the home less than a year, the <b>30 days written notice</b> is given. If a tenant has lived in the home between 1 and 2 years, the <b>60 days written notice</b> is given. If a tenant has lived in the home 2 or more years, the <b>90 days written notice</b> is given. In this case, after the tenant remains in the property after the end of the notice period, the <b>notice of petition</b> is served.</p> <p><b>Documents to Bring to Court</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice of Petition / Petition</li> <li>• Receipts of Rent Paid</li> <li>• Pictures of Imagen / Habitos Issues</li> <li>• Lease</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.legalservicesll.org">www.legalservicesll.org</a>  <a href="https://www.instagram.com/legalservicesll">www.instagram.com/legalservicesll</a>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/legalservicesll">www.facebook.com/legalservicesll</a></p> <p><small>The information contained in this material is not legal advice. Legal advice depends upon the specific facts of each situation. Also, the time may have passed to take legal action. The material contained on this site cannot replace the advice of competent legal counsel licensed in your state.</small></p> <p>1 of 2 <a href="http://www.legalservicesll.org">www.legalservicesll.org</a></p>	<p><b>LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>Conozca sus derechos: Arrendatario</b></p> <p><b>Tipo de Arrendador / Caso de Alquiler</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Falta de pago:</b> este tipo puede ser iniciado por un propietario para cobrar el alquiler impagado.</li> <li>• <b>Remanente:</b> este caso se ve cuando el inquilino se queda en la propiedad después de la expiración del contrato de arrendamiento.</li> <li>• <b>Post Foreclosure Holdover.</b> 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Avisos que puede recibir antes de un caso programado para la corte</b></p> <p>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 3 días de retraso, si el inquilino no paga el alquiler después del primer aviso, se recibirá una solicitud de alquiler. Los días después de que comienza 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 periodo de notificación, se notifica la petición.</p> <p><b>Documentos para llevar a la corte</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avisos de Petición / Peticiones</li> <li>• Recibos de alquiler pagados</li> <li>• Problemas de Imagen / Hábitos</li> <li>• Arrendamiento</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.legalservicesll.org">www.legalservicesll.org</a>  <a href="https://www.instagram.com/legalservicesll">www.instagram.com/legalservicesll</a>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/legalservicesll">www.facebook.com/legalservicesll</a></p> <p><small>The information contained in this material is not legal advice. Legal advice depends upon the specific facts of each situation. Also, the time may have passed to take legal action. 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Premye avi a se yon avi lweye peman 3 jou an reza, si lokatè a pa paye lweye a apre premye avi sa a, ap resevwa yon avi 14 jou demann kob lweye pou sa ka reza. Kompare, epi avon rekèt, petisyon an sèvi. Phòdote: eviksyon holdover a diferan pase li depann de konbyen tan yon lokatè te viv nan kay la. Si yon lokatè te viv nan kay la pou mwens pase 1 an, yo bay 30 jou pou avèki. Si yon lokatè te viv nan kay la pou plis pase 1 an, yo bay 60 jou pou avèki. Si yon lokatè te viv nan kay la pou plis pase 2 an, yo bay 90 jou pou avèki. Nan ka sa a, apre lokatè a rete nan pwopriyete apre ken peryòd avi a, yo sèvi li avon petisyon an.</p> <p><b>Dokiman pou pote nan Tribinal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avi Petisyon / Pètisyon</li> <li>• Resi peman lweye</li> <li>• Foto ki montre pwoblèm</li> <li>• Kontra lweye</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.legalservicesll.org">www.legalservicesll.org</a>  <a href="https://www.instagram.com/legalservicesll">www.instagram.com/legalservicesll</a>  <a href="http://www.facebook.com/legalservicesll">www.facebook.com/legalservicesll</a></p> <p><small>The information contained in this material is not legal advice. Legal advice depends upon the specific facts of each situation. Also, the time may have passed to take legal action. The material contained on this site cannot replace the advice of competent legal counsel licensed in your state.</small></p> <p>1 of 2 <a href="http://www.legalservicesll.org">www.legalservicesll.org</a></p>
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## Fact Sheets on Illegal Evictions in Suffolk County in English, Spanish, and Creole



Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

On January 17th, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented "**Rental Arrear Assistance Programs on Long Island.**" Supervising Attorney John Batanchiev and Law Graduate Jacob Mortenson reviewed rental arrear assistance programs on Long Island, from DSS to non-profit agencies: how to apply, eligibility guidelines, and how to challenge a denial. Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

On December 6th, 2024, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented, "**Emergency Housing Assistance on Long Island.**" We spoke about the Department of Social Services services and procedures, as well as resources when assisting a client in need of emergency housing assistance. Slides are available on our website. View the recording on our YouTube Channel.

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.

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!

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Read our Annual Report highlighting our accomplishments and programs throughout 2023. Your support benefited **13,818** Long Islanders by providing access to the legal help they needed to resolve issues threatening their housing, financial stability, health and safety, or

limiting their access to opportunities to enrich their lives and communities.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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Spread the word! Upcoming Homeowners Clinic on March 27th for Suffolk County Residents! [Download the Flyer in English and Spanish.](#)

## HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS CLINIC



### FREE ASSISTANCE WITH:

- Answering a Foreclosure Complaint
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Understanding the Foreclosure Process

Thursday, March 27 from 11am to 2pm

400 West Main Street, Suite 200 Riverhead, NY 11901

**For More Information call:**  
**(631) 232-2400**

[www.legalservicesli.org](http://www.legalservicesli.org)



**DO YOU NEED  
HELP WITH A  
LEGAL PROBLEM?**

Upcoming Community Legal Help Project locations, dates, and times for Nassau and Suffolk County can be found on our website. CLHP will be at the Riverhead Library every 4th Wednesday of the month starting January 2025!



LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND  
*Where Dignity Meets Justice*

2025 SPRING COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE RECEPTION  
ILLUMINATING PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE

*Save the Date*

WEDNESDAY

MAY

7

6PM-10PM

BARBARA J. MEHRMAN  
COMMITMENT TO  
JUSTICE HONOREE

2025

COMMUNITY PARTNER  
IN JUSTICE HONOREE



**Laurie Bloom**  
LSLI Advisory Council Member  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
Rivkin Radler LLP



**Judge Fern A. Fisher**  
Executive Director  
Legal Hand, Inc.

Cold Springs Country Club  
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Huntington, NY 11743

**Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available**

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and tickets through this link**

## 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 opportunities 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rscoll@legalservicesli.org)

## **Suffolk County**

### **Pro Bono Project**

The Pro Bono Project is an innovative pro bono program that expands the availability of legal services to Suffolk County residents in need. The Project provides opportunities 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, Power of Attorneys, and Wills.

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

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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.



[LEGALSERVICESLI.ORG](https://legalservicesli.org)

## WHERE DIGNITY MEETS JUSTICE



**LEGAL SERVICES**  
OF LONG ISLAND

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**



**LEGAL SERVICES**  
OF LONG ISLAND

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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