

April 28th, 2026



Where Dignity Meets Justice

## APRIL ADVOCACY TIPS

### 1 NY Attorney General Health Care Helpline

New Yorkers who need assistance resolving health care disputes, correct medical billing errors, and obtain necessary medical treatment can reach out to the New York Attorney General's Health Care Bureau. The Health Care Helpline serves as a direct resource for New Yorkers seeking help with medical bills, insurance claims, and access to care. [In 2025](#), the most common categories of complaints to the Health Care Helpline were provider billing (42 percent), wrongful practices such as improper collections or refund issues (24 percent), claim-processing errors (13 percent), and health plan denials of coverage (10 percent). Other complaints involved obtaining or maintaining insurance coverage and access to prescription drugs. New Yorkers can contact the Health Care Helpline through the [online complaint form](#) to report and resolve health care complaints ranging from simple billing errors to complex deceptive business practices. Consumers can also call 1-800-428-9071 to file a complaint. Any consumer who believes that they may have been treated unfairly by a health care provider, Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), insurance plan, or other health-related business should contact the helpline for assistance. Helpline advocates also work to ensure that any negative impacts from improper medical billing or insurance claims are removed from credit reports.

### College Students Can Apply For SNAP

# 2

College students who wish to receive SNAP benefits must be in college at least half time, meet the income eligibility for SNAP and meet one of the following criteria:

- Under age 19 or age 50 or
- Have a physical or mental disability
- Work at least 20 hours a week in paid employment.
- Participate in a State or Federally financed work study program during the regular school year.
- Participate in an on-the-job training program

- Care for a child under the age of 6, or care for a child between ages 6 to 11 and lack the necessary childcare to allow them to attend school and work 20 hours per week or participate in work study.
- Single parent enrolled full time in college and taking care of a child under age 12
- Receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- Attend a SUNY or CUNY comprehensive college, technology college, or community college and are enrolled in a qualified career and technical education program.
- Attend any of the 10 Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) in New York State and are enrolled in a career and technical education program, remedial course, basic adult education, literacy, or English as a second language.

For assistance and more information, New Yorkers can contact their local SNAP district office or visit the [New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's website](#).

*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

*We also assist low-income households in establishing Supplemental Needs Trusts to eliminate the Medicaid spend-down and assist homeless families 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.*

## 3 Rental Arrears Assistance Programs Available

**\*Updated\*** Suffolk County's Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program is **currently at capacity**, and no new applications are being reviewed at this time. **However, any new applications will go on a waitlist.** The Program will supplement rental housing costs for families of low-to-moderate income for up to 24 months (based on funding availability and lease dates). Please note this is not for rental arrears but for a security deposit or rental assistance going forward. [Please visit Suffolk County's website for program guidelines and to download a copy of the application.](#)

**Town of Brookhaven** Home ARP Rental Arrears Assistance Program opened on October 1, 2025. This program provides assistance for eligible residents on a first-come, first-served basis until all funds are exhausted. 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.](#)

**Advocacy Tip:** If you believe you or a client has been discriminated against by a current or potential landlord based on your race, religion, disability, nationality, or any other protected characteristic, you can make a complaint with the New York Division of Human Rights. Further, it is illegal in New York State for anyone to deny you housing based on the type of lawful income you receive. Complaints can be made at 1-888-392-3644 or [dhr.ny.gov](http://dhr.ny.gov). Early intervention is available for Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) holders facing discrimination. Housing Choice Voucher Holders Complaints can be made at (844) 697-3471 or visiting [dhr.ny.gov/report](http://dhr.ny.gov/report).

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.

## Read the Winter/Spring 2026 Newsletter



**LEGAL SERVICES**  
OF LONG ISLAND

**WINTER/SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER**

<p><b>MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b> <i>Victoria C. Oak, Esq.</i></p>  <p>Legal Services of Long Island continues to make major strides in providing free legal assistance to low-income families across Long Island. This work is especially meaningful this year as we celebrate our 60th anniversary. Over the past six decades, our organization has grown and transformed to become as accessible as possible to the communities we serve.</p> <p>We meet people where they are: in libraries, courthouses, and throughout the community, and this progress would not be possible without the continued support of the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations, legislators, and all those who continue to stand behind our mission.</p> <p>We have also tremendously expanded our services, particularly within our Pro Bono Unit. This year, we hosted more clinics than ever before, assisting individuals with bankruptcy matters, Article 7-A guardianships, and advance directives. The program has evolved into a more hands-on model, allowing us to provide full legal representation when possible or directly assist clients with completing critical legal documents.</p> <p>In addition, we have expanded our Community Legal Help Project in both counties. In Nassau County, we have been meeting with community members in libraries throughout the county and at the District Court. This important work would not be possible without the generous support of our partner law firms and the many dedicated individual volunteers who make it possible.</p> <p>Our organization has also grown internally, with an expansion of staff, particularly within our Veterans Rights Project. Thanks to the support of New York State and other partners, this growth has allowed us to reach more veterans and extend our services to even more communities in need.</p> <p>As we reflect on 60 years of service, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported Legal Services of Long Island along the way. As we enter our 60th year and look toward the future, we remain committed to continued growth and to ensuring that access to justice is a reality for all. We hope you will join us on May 6th at our Commitment to Justice Reception to celebrate this special Diamond Jubilee anniversary.</p>	<p><b>Inside This Issue:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Diamond Jubilee Anniversary/ 2</li> <li>Special Calls Sponsorship Opportunities/Donate a Basket 3</li> <li>Human Rights Stories 4</li> <li>Veterans Rights Stories 5</li> <li>Foreclosure Prevention Stories 6</li> <li>Consumer Debt Stories 7</li> <li>Suffolk Civil Stories 8</li> <li>Resources For Your Clients 9</li> <li>2026 Commitment to Justice Reception 10</li> <li>Profiles in Commitment 12</li> <li>Honoring Our Suffolk Pro Bono Attorneys 13</li> <li>Volunteer Lawyers Project 14</li> <li>LSU in the Community 15</li> <li>Tee Off For Justice Recap 16</li> <li>Legal Services LI Highlights 17</li> <li>Advisory Council News 18</li> <li>Testimonials 19</li> </ul> <p><b>Contributors:</b> Sharon Campo, Esq., Supervising Attorney of Volunteers and Community Project Catherine Lucidi, Director of Community Relations Hannah Fitzpatrick, Community Relations Paralegal Jessica Fleischer, External Affairs Paralegal</p>
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING OUR 2026 60TH CELEBRATION, SEE PAGES 10-11.**



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




LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

## Download the Winter/Spring 2026 Newsletter

## Download Our Fact Sheets

### Know Your Rights Tenant fact sheets in English, Spanish, and Creole.



**Know your rights: Tenants**

Legal Services of Long Island (LSLI) is committed to helping people in need assert and secure their rights under the law. Established in 1966, LSLI 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 **5-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, the **30-day written notice** is given. If a tenant has lived in the home between 1 and 2 years, the **60-day written notice** is given. If a tenant has lived in the home 2 or more years, the **90-day 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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**Conozca sus derechos: Arrendatario**

**Tipo de Arrendador / Caso de Alquiler**

- **Falta de pago:** este tipo puede ser iniciado por un propietario para cobrar el alquiler impagado.
- **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 5 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, se notifica por escrito con 90 días de anticipación. Si un inquilino vive en la propiedad después del final del periodo de notificación, se notifica la petición.

**Documentos para llevar a la corte**

- Avisos de Petición / Peticiones
- Recibos de alquiler impagados
- Problemas de Hábitat Habitables
- Arrendamiento

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

**Kalite Mèt kay / Ka Lokasyon**

- **Peman Pa-Peye** - Kalite ka sa inhye pa youn mèt kay pou kolekte kob lwaye ki pa peye.
- **Holdover** - Kà sa sèvi lokatè a rete nan pwopriyete a apre ekspirasyon kontra lwaye li.
- **Apres Sèvi Holdover** - Sa a refere a youn sitiyasyon kote youn lokatè rete nan youn pwopriyete apre yo sèvi li sou li epi li transfere ak youn nouvo pwopriyete.

**Avi ou ka resewa anvan youn ka pwogram pou Tribinal la**

Nan youn ka mèt kay, dwe ki pa peye (eviksyon), mèt kay la dwe voye 2 avi peman an rete anvan yo mennen lokatè a nan tribinal. Premye avi a se youn avi lwaye peman 5 jou an rete, si lokatè a pa peye lwaye a apre premye avi sa, yo resewa youn avi 14 jou demann kob lwaye, apre sa ka tribinal la komans, epi yo rete petisyon an avni. Pwosès eviksyon Holdover a difere paske li depann de konbyen tan youn lokatè te viv nan kay la, oswa longè kontrat lwaye a. Si youn lokatè ap viv nan kay la mwenpi pas youn outben mwen pas youn kontra lwaye pou 1 an, yo bay avi 30 jou avèki; si youn lokatè ap viv nan kay la pou 1 an e outben yo pa tribinal la, yo bay avi 60 jou avèki; si youn lokatè ap viv nan kay la 2 outben plis pase 2 an, yo bay avi 90 jou avèki. A Nan ka sa a, apre lokatè a rete nan pwopriyete apre ten peryòd avi a, yo sèvi li avi petisyon an.

**Dokiman pou pote nan Tribinal**

- Avi Petisyon / Petisyon
- Resi peman lwaye
- Foto ki mounite pwoblèm
- Kontra lwaye

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



process works when victims of domestic violence are seeking orders of protection. In addition, we reviewed the procedure for child support and child custody. Lastly, we reviewed the expansion of our Domestic Violence Unit in Nassau County and how you or your clients can receive services. [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#) [Slides are available on our website.](#)

On March 31st, 2026, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented, “**Gimme Shelter Share: How To Challenge a DSS Shelter Share Requirement.**” We learned what a shelter share is, how it is calculated, steps DSS must take before they discontinue Temporary Housing Assistance (THA) based on a failure to pay the shelter share, and the defenses against discontinuation. [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#) [Slides are available on our website.](#)

On Thursday, March 12th, 2026, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented “**Student Loans 2.0: Navigating Changes to the System Under the New Budget Bill.**” This informative session is designed to help you navigate upcoming changes to the federal student loan system under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). We covered how changes to borrowing limits and repayment plans will affect current and future borrowers, and we reviewed important information for those with Parent Plus loans. Whether you’re planning ahead or preparing for repayment, this workshop equips you with the tools to make smart, informed decisions. [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#) [Slides are available on our website.](#)

On February 26th, 2026, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented on “**Introduction to Long Term Care Services through Medicaid Managed Care.**” LSLI Staff Attorney Kimberly Bolk introduced home and community-based long-term care services provided by Medicaid that help elderly and disabled Long Island residents receive home care and other services in their homes. In addition, she provided information about how the consumer can pick a family member or friend to provide in-home caregiving services paid for by Medicaid (otherwise known as CDPAP). [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#) [Slides are available on our website.](#)

On October 23rd, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates and the Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP) presented “**Student Loans- The Changing Landscape: What Borrowers Need to Know.**” We discussed the big changes coming to the federal student loan system—and how they’ll impact every borrower. From the end of the SAVE Plan to new borrowing limits, repayment structures, and forgiveness options, the rules are shifting fast. [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#) [Slides are available on our website.](#)

On June 25th, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates and the Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP) presented “**Big Changes, Big Decisions: Navigating Student Loans in Uncertain Times.**” We gave important updates on student loans and an overview of repayment options, a review of forgiveness programs (including Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)), and tips for managing delinquent and defaulted debt. [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#) [Slides are available on our website.](#)

On April 24th, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates and the Education Consumer Assistance Program (EDCAP) presented “**Weathering the Storm: Managing Student Loans in Uncertain Times.**” We covered student loan repayment options and forgiveness, discharge programs, and updated you on the latest developments affecting the federal student loan system. [View the recording on our YouTube Channel!](#) [Slides are available on our website.](#)

The Legal Support Center for Advocates presented “**Introduction to ICAN and Community-Based Managed Long-Term Care**” on Wednesday, April 9th, 2025. Staff Attorney Amanda Davis discussed the introduction to home and community-based long-term care provided by Medicaid that helps elderly and disabled Long Island residents receive home care and other services in their homes, as well as an introduction to the Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) and how they can help. [Slides are available on our website.](#) [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#)

On March 28th, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates and LSLI Supervising Attorney Sarah Kupferberg presented "**The Basics of Applying for SSI for Children.**" We reviewed the basics of applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for children, including eligibility guidelines, the application process, and how to appeal. [Slides are available on our website.](#) [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#)

On March 21st, 2025, the Legal Support Center for Advocates presented "**New York State Wage and Hour Basics.**" Supervising Attorney John Batanchiev and Law Graduate Jacob Mortenson reviewed common wage and hour violations for low-income New Yorkers and the steps they can take to protect their rights. [Slides are available on our website.](#) [View the recording on our YouTube Channel.](#)

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

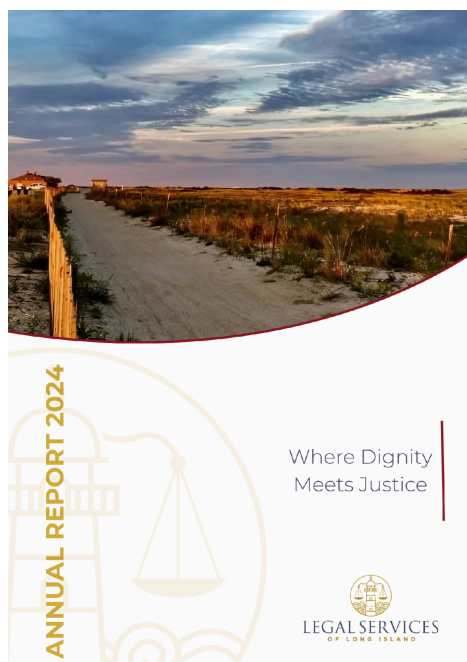
**Did you miss any of our *Programs of Legal Services of Long Island* Presentations? Feel free to watch them on [our YouTube Channel!](#)**

## 2024 Annual Report

We are pleased to share our [2024 Annual Report](#), which summarizes the achievements and progress of Legal Services of Long Island over the last fiscal year.

Your support benefited **13,648** 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.

Thank you for your continued support and thank you to all of our staff who assisted in editing and contributing to the 2024 Annual Report. We hope you enjoy reading our [2024 Annual Report](#) and feel free to share it with your family, friends, and fellow Long Islanders



## Upcoming Happenings



**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!**

## Pro Bono Attorneys Needed

**A little more about our volunteer needs:**

### **Nassau County**

#### **Volunteer Lawyers Project**

In partnership with the Nassau County Bar Association, 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**

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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.



## 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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