

August 26th, 2026



Where Dignity Meets Justice

AUGUST ADVOCACY TIPS

1

Reminder About the Hospital Financial Aid Law

New York's Hospital Financial Aid Law requires hospitals to offer discounted or free care, sometimes called "charity care," to patients who cannot afford their bills. Patients with household incomes up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level may qualify, and hospitals must waive all charges for patients earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level. This means single New Yorkers earning less than \$31,920 and four-person households earning less than \$66,000 are entitled to free care, while single New Yorkers earning up to \$63,840 and four-person households earning up to \$132,000 may qualify for a discount. Patients do not need to be uninsured to qualify; those with insurance who have exhausted their insurance benefits or who have spent more than 10 percent of their household income on out-of-pocket medical costs in the past year may also be eligible.

Hospitals cannot deny emergency or medically necessary care because of an unpaid bill, cannot limit financial aid based on a patient's medical condition, and cannot ask about or consider a patient's immigration status when determining eligibility. Applying for financial aid does not count as a public benefit and does not affect immigration status. Additionally, hospitals are legally prohibited from reporting applicants to immigration authorities. Hospitals also cannot send a bill to a debt collector while a financial aid application is under review, or for at least six months after sending a patient's first bill.

[Visit the New York Attorney General's website for guidance on Hospital Financial Assistance.](#)

LSLI's Consumer Debt Legal Assistance Project provides legal assistance to persons who are experiencing consumer debt problems, especially in the 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 residents can call 631-232-2400.

The Ombudsman program advocates for residents of nursing homes, board-and-care homes, assisted living facilities, and other similar adult care facilities. State Ombudsmen and their designated representatives work to resolve problems that individual residents face and effect change at the local, state, and national levels to improve quality of care. In addition to identifying, investigating, and resolving complaints, Ombudsman program responsibilities include:

- Educating residents, their family, and facility staff about residents' rights, good care practices, and similar long-term services and supports resources;
- Ensuring residents have regular and timely access to ombudsman services;
- Providing technical support for the development of resident and family councils;
- Advocating for changes to improve residents' quality of life and care;
- Providing information to the public regarding long-term care facilities and services, residents' rights, and legislative and policy issues;
- Representing resident interests before governmental agencies; and
- Seeking legal, administrative and other remedies to protect residents.

To reach your local Ombudsman, call 1 (855) 582-6769.

LSLI's Adult Care Project provides legal representation, counsel, and advice, and conducts trainings for Residents and advocate groups. We provide advice and counsel and, where necessary, direct representation to residents by phone and in-person on matters relating to evictions, finances, public benefits, medical coverage, living conditions in facilities, resident rights, advance directives, and a variety of other legal issues.

The Project handles resident's rights issues without regard to the resident's income, although it prioritizes low-income residents. To be screened for services, Nassau residents can call 516-292-8100, and Suffolk residents can call 631-232-2400.

3

Veterans Postcard Scam Alert

Veterans across the country have reported getting postcards in the mail saying they (or their spouse) might qualify for extra monthly veterans benefits. **But the “Veterans Savings Program” mentioned in the mailer doesn’t actually exist.** It’s just a scammer [phishing](#) for personal or financial information. Here’s how this scam works so you can avoid it. The postcard might list the state you’re living in and mention real VA benefits like CHAMPVA or TRICARE For Life, hoping to seem more real.

The message tells you to call right away or risk losing out. Scammers always hope you’ll act quickly rather than pause and do some research. Their goal is to trick you into calling and sharing personal information like your Social Security number or bank account details.

If you get a postcard like this:

- **Don’t respond. Legitimate VA communications will not pressure you to respond immediately or give sensitive information over the phone.**
- **Contact the VA directly if you have questions about your benefits. Always use a number you know is real — never the one in the postcard. Start with the VA Benefits Hotline at 1-800-827-1000.**

If you spot this or another VA benefits scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud) and to the VA at [VSAFE.gov](https://www.vsa.gov) or 1-833-38V-SAFE. For more information, [visit the FTC's website](#).

LSLI's Veterans Rights Project provides legal assistance to low-income United States military veterans. Legal services include assistance with various issues, including veterans' benefits and appeals, discharge 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. The Veterans Rights Project staff participate in community outreach such as

Upcoming Events

Legal Services of Long Island will be hosting our 2nd annual TEErific fundraising event! Join us as we continue to celebrate our 60th anniversary milestone with a TopGolf fundraiser. All Sponsorship Packages and Tickets include a great Fiesta Dinner Buffet, which includes beer, house wine, and soda. We'd love to see you there! [Purchase a Sponsorship Package and/or Ticket online today!](#)



LSLI SUFFOLK PRO BONO PROJECT

FREE Virtual Legal Advice Clinic

Empowering community members by providing free, accessible legal advice and resources to eligible Suffolk County residents.

September, 2026
By Appointment Only
Zoom or by Phone

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

Eligible individuals may receive a free one-on-one consultation with a volunteer attorney in one of the following areas of law:

- Understanding **17-A Guardianships** and other options
- Information on the **Uncontested & Contested Divorce** process
- **Child Support and/or Custody** information
- Learn your options to restore your **Suspended or Revoked License**
- Information on resolving **Income Tax Debt**
- Addressing **Probate & Estate** legal issues
- Understanding the **Article 81 Guardianship** process
- Choosing the right **Advance Planning** documents you may need
- Is **Bankruptcy** right for you & what do you need to know before filing?

For more information:
Scan the QR code or call 631-232-2400 ext. 3315. Please contact us by September 4th 2026 to secure your spot if you are determined eligible.

[Download Flyer to Share](#)

FREE Virtual Legal Advice Clinic -
The Suffolk Pro Bono Project will be hosting clinics for eligible Suffolk County residents who are low-income and eligible in the following areas:

- **Article 17A Guardianship**
- **Divorce, Custody & Support**
- **Article 81-Guardianship**
- **Estate Matters**
- **Bankruptcy**
- **Suspended/Revoked License**
- **Deed/Title Matters**
- **Income Tax Questions**

Call 631-232-2400 ext. 3315 by September 4, 2026, to secure your spot if you are determined eligible.

Foreclosure and Deed Theft Resource Fair- September 24th, 2-4pm, Uniondale - Join the NY Attorney General, LSLI, and other housing counseling and legal organizations for a **foreclosure and deed theft resource fair** and forum. Collect homeowner resources and get information about free help, guidance, and support for homeowners. Hear from a panel of housing and legal experts discussing deed theft and foreclosure issues. RSVP at ag.ny.gov/deed-theft-uniondale

Office of the New York Attorney General Letitia James

Deed theft and foreclosure prevention

Educational panel and resource fair

JOIN US:
Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 2-4 p.m.
Van Ness Fire Station
354 Uniondale Avenue, Uniondale, NY 11553

Join us for a foreclosure and deed theft resource fair and forum. Collect homeowner resources and get information from housing counseling and legal services organizations that offer free help, guidance, and support for homeowners. Hear from a panel of housing and legal experts discussing deed theft and foreclosure issues.

RSVP
ag.ny.gov/deed-theft-uniondale

Haitian Creole, Spanish, and American Sign language (ASL) will be available. Interpreters are required. See us in person to sign up.

If you require an accommodation or language interpretation services to participate in a program, service, or activity of our office, visit ag.ny.gov request an accommodation.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

Our office developed the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP) to help homeowners protect their homes. **Free HOPP services include:**

- legal court representation
- home-ownership counseling
- resources and support to help you keep your home

1-855-466-5456 | homeownerhelp.ny.gov

[Download Flyer to Share](#)

VETERANS LEGAL RESOURCE FAIR

Hosted by Legal Services of Long Island
In Partnership with Assemblyman Steve Stern,
Chairman of the NYS Assembly Veterans' Affairs Committee

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2026

11:00AM - 2:00PM

**SOUTH HUNTINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
145 PIGEON HILL ROAD
HUNTINGTON STATION, NY 11746**

The Veterans Legal Resource Fair will feature:

- Presentations on legal issues affecting veterans
- Learn about available legal resources and services
- Meet with veteran-serving agencies



Veteran's Legal Resource Fair- Join Legal Services of Long Island in partnership with Assemblyman Steve Stern for a Veterans Legal Resource Fair on **September 30th, 11am to 2pm, at the South Huntington Public Library.** The event will feature presentations on legal issues affecting veterans, learning about available legal resources and services, and meeting with veterans-serving agencies. Feel free to download and share the flyer.

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!



DO YOU NEED HELP WITH A LEGAL PROBLEM?

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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www.facebook.com/legalservicesli

The information contained in this material is not legal advice. Legal advice depends upon the specific facts of each situation. Also, the information may not be guaranteed to be up to date. The material contained on this site cannot replace the advice of competent legal counsel licensed in your state.

1 of 2 www.legalservicesli.org



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 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.

Documentos para llevar a la corte

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

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

Kalite Mèt kay / Ka Lokasyon

- **Pèman Pè-pèye:** Kalite ka sa mèt kay pa pèye kolekte kòb lweye ki pa pèye.
- **Holdover:** Ka sa sòl lokatè a rete nan pwopriyete a apre ekspirasyon kontra-lweye a.
- **Apre Sell Holdover:** Sa a refere a yon sitiyasyon kote yon lokatè rete nan yon pwopriyete apre yo sezi li sou li epi ki transfere ak yon nouvo pwopriyete.

Avi ou ka resevwa anvan yon ka pwogram pou Tribinal la

Nan yon ka mèt lokatè deyò ki pa pèye pèman (eviksyon), mèt kay la dwe voye 2 avi pèman an rete anvan yo mennen lokatè a nan tribinal. Premye avi a se pou avi lweye pèman 5 jou an reta, si lokatè a pa pèye lweye apre sa tribinal la konnen, epi si rete petiyon an avi. Pwosès eviksyon Holdover a diferan paske li depann de konbyen tan yon lokatè te viv nan kay la - oswa lontan kontra-lweye a. Si yon lokatè ap viv nan kay la mwen pase yon ane oubyen mwen gen yon kontra lweye pou 1 ane, yo bay avi 30 jou alekri; si yon lokatè ap viv nan kay la an 1 ak 2 ane oubyen si pli pandan lweye, yo bay avi 60 jou alekri; Si yon lokatè ap viv nan kay la 2 oubyen pli pase 2 ane, yo bay avi 90 jou alekri a. Nan ka sa a, apre lokatè a rete nan pwopriyete apre fen peryòd avi a, yo sezi li nan petiyon an.

Dokiman pou pote nan Tribinal

- Avi Petiyon / Petiyon
- Resi pèman lweye
- Foto ki montre pwoblèm
- Kontra lweye

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1 of 2 www.legalservicesli.org

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

[illegible]



Quick Consumer Debt Resource Guide

updated 3/13/2025

Court Actions

- www.nycourts.gov/courthelp/
- Legal libraries Ask a Law Librarian: <https://askalawlibrarian.nycourts.gov/> OR 212-582-0875, Supreme Court Riverside 631.740.3965, Supreme Court Elmhurst 631.740.3965
- Legal Hand 631-366-7036
- Vacate Judgment Program- <http://www.nycourts.gov/courthelp/diy/consumerdebt.shtml>
- <https://www.lawhelp.org>
- www.Ny.freelegaladvisers.org

Credit Reports

- Free yearly credit report: www.annualcreditreport.com; (877) 322-8228

Debt Collection Complaints

- NY's Attorney General (car dealers, lemon law, etc.) [800\(777\)-7755](http://800(777)-7755)
- Federal Trade Commission (scam phone calls, etc.); <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov>
- 877-383-4387
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau- www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/; (855) 411-2372
- NY's Consumer Protection Dept (800) 697-1220; www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection/
- Nassau Dept. of Consumer Affairs- 516-577-2600, Suffolk Dept. of Consumer Affairs- (631) 853-4600

Financial Counseling

- Community Development Long Island Financial Counseling Workshops; <http://www.cdli.org/financial-coaching-resources>
- <https://www.housinginnovations.org>
- <http://www.communityhousing.org/services/financial-literacy/>

Quick Consumer Debt Resource Guide 1 of 2 <http://www.legalservicesoflakeillinois.org>

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

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

Suffolk County

Pro Bono Project

In partnership with the Suffolk County Bar Association, 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, Foreclosure, Health Care Proxies, 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



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OF LONG ISLAND

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