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October 29th, 2026

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

Where Dignity Meets Justice

OCTOBER ADVOCACY TIPS

1 New Voter Registration Confidentiality Rules for Domestic Violence Survivors

Governor Hochul recently signed legislation (S.9671A/A.10960A) that requires the New York State Board of Elections (BOE) to notify domestic violence survivors that their voter registration information confidentiality is about to expire. Under existing law, eligible survivors can request that their voter registration information be kept private for four years to prevent an abuser from using public records to locate them. Under the new law, BOE must mail survivors a notice at least six months before those protections expire, including instructions for how to renew them. This builds on previous legislation signed into law in 2021, allowing domestic violence survivors to request confidentiality for their voter registration records directly from BOE instead of a formerly mandated court order.

The Domestic Violence Project provides legal representation to victims of domestic violence in Nassau and Suffolk County relating to family law matters, including obtaining orders of protection and custody. Nassau residents can call 516-292-8100 to be screened for services. Suffolk County residents need to go through one of our advocacy agencies. ***For Suffolk County residents only,*** *for the fastest referrals, please contact Brighter Tomorrows at (631)395-1800 or, if you are on the East End of Long Island, The Retreat at (631) 329-2200. Both hotlines are available 24 hours a day.*

2 HEAP Opens November 2, 2026

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 imminent danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off. This benefit is scheduled to open on November 2nd and continue through the winter or until funding runs out. 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, and 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

Zombie Mortgage Debt Relief for Homeowners

New York Attorney General Letitia James recently secured more than $480,000 and additional debt relief for New York homeowners from a group of debt buyers who attempted to collect expired mortgage payments from homeowners facing foreclosure. An investigation by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) found that a group of companies, including BCMB1 Trust; First Age, LLC; NS194, LLC; Second Start, LLC; Southern MBA Trust, and their affiliates, bought thousands of defaulted mortgage loans throughout the state, most of which originated in the years leading up to the 2008 financial crisis. Many of these loans were second mortgages that had long gone unpaid because borrowers had modified their primary mortgages during the financial crisis and lenders had stopped trying to collect payments on them. The OAG's investigation found that the debt buyers violated New York laws by filing foreclosure lawsuits with demands to repay debt that was no longer legally collectable. As a result of OAG's investigation, the companies will pay more than $480,000 in penalties and restitution to homeowners and must drop all demands for expired mortgage payments in any ongoing foreclosure case.

To learn more or to file a claim, visit the New York Attorney General's website.

The Foreclosure Prevention Project provides free legal services to homeowners hoping to prevent foreclosure of their homes.
Services provided include:

- *Legal representation at the various stages of the foreclosure process, including at mandatory court settlement conferences, drafting pleadings, and drafting and opposing motions*
- *Assist borrowers pursuing loss mitigation options, including loan modifications*
- *Advice and Counsel*

The Project is part of the HOPP network, a Statewide coalition that includes HUD-certified housing counseling agencies. As such, we will make referrals to and collaborate with HOPP-funded, non-profit housing counseling agencies. Clients must reside in the homes subject to foreclosure and have low- to moderate-income for Long Island, as annually set by HUD. To be screened for eligibility, Nassau County residents can call 516-292-8100. Suffolk residents West of 112 can call 631-232-2400; and East of 112 can call 631-369-1112.


LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

SUMMER/FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Victoria C. Osik, Esq.

Throughout the year, Legal Services of Long Island (LSLI) has proudly celebrated six decades of service to our community. On May 6, 2026, we marked this achievement with our 60th Anniversary Gala Celebration, bringing together friends, supporters, and advocates to celebrate sixty years of providing access to justice.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and donors, whose generosity continues to strengthen our ability to serve the community, and to our staff, whose hard work and compassion make it possible for LSLI to serve thousands of individuals and families each year. It was an evening filled with meaningful connections and a celebration of the impact LSLI has made, and will continue to make, for Long Islanders in need.

LSLI, in partnership with legal services organizations across New York State, has been working to close the justice gap by creating a free, coordinated intake portal - EvictionDefenderNY. The portal will connect New Yorkers looking for assistance in landlord/tenant matters to legal services providers and other legal information helpful to them. Turn to page 15 for more information on the EvictionDefenderNY intake portal.

This past June, LSLI collaborated with the Nassau County Bar Association's Mortgage Foreclosure Project to host our first Housing Forum for Advocates. We welcomed over eighty advocates to learn more about housing rights for their clients, whether it be the eviction or foreclosure process, housing conditions, or fair housing laws. The New York State Attorney General's Office, Housing Help, and Long Island Housing Services provided information on how their services can help Long Island residents in need. We look forward to hosting more in-person events with our community partners.

June also marked the third summer we provided paid legal internships funded by New York State's Eviction Prevention Program. LSLI welcomed more than 30 law student interns through our Housing Unit internship program from law schools across New York State. The students gained valuable hands-on experience assisting clients, participating in court proceedings, and learning about the challenges faced by individuals and families navigating the legal system. Their enthusiasm and commitment brought new energy to our work while helping prepare the next generation of public interest advocates.

As we reflect on 60 years of service, we are thankful to everyone who has been part of LSLI's journey. We look forward to continuing our mission to ensure that every Long Islander has access to justice, dignity, and a fair opportunity to move forward.

2ND ANNUAL TEE-OFF FOR JUSTICE WILL BE ON OCTOBER 5TH. SEE PAGE 23 FOR DETAILS!

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL GALA ON MAY 19TH SEE BACK COVER FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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www.LegalServicesLI.org

We are so excited to share with you our **Summer/Fall 2026 Newsletter** highlighting the successes of our staff, volunteer attorneys, and advisory council. Read our advocacy tips and **Save the Date for our Tee Off For Justice 2026**. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the successful publication of our newsletter and thank you for reading!

Download Newsletter

Upcoming Events

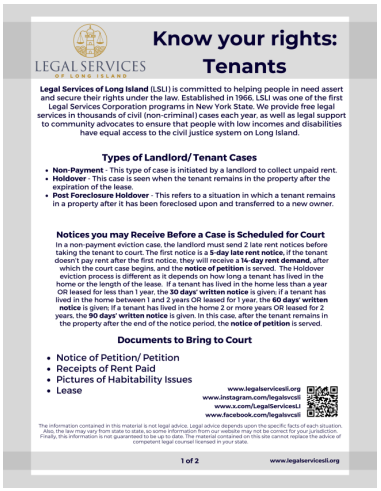
Upcoming **Community Legal Help Project** locations, dates, and times for Nassau and Suffolk County can be found on our website. **CLHP is now at the Deer Park Public Library on the second and third Wednesday of the month! Please take notice that CLHP will not be at the Amityville Public Library during its construction.**

COMMUNITY LEGAL HELP PROJECT

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH A LEGAL PROBLEM?

Download Our Fact Sheets

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



LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

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 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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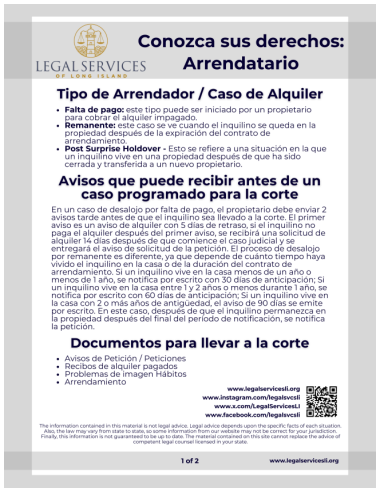

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

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 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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LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

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

Kalite Mèt kay / Ka Lokasyon

- **Peman Pa-Peye** - Kalite ka sa inisye pa yon mèt kay pou kolekte kob lwaye ki pa peye.
- **Holdover** - Ka sa sèlè lokatè a rete nan pwopriyete a apre ekspirasyon kontra-lwaye a.
- **Apre Sezi 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 pwograme pou Tribinal la

Nan yon ka mete lokatè deyo ki pa peye-peman (eviksyon), mèt kay la dwe voye 2 avi peman an reta anvan yo mennen lokatè a nan tribinal. Premye avi a se yon avi lwaye peman 5 jou an reta, si lokatè a pa peye lwaye a apre premye avi sa, y ap resevwa yon avi lè jou demann kob lwaye, apre sa ka tribinal la komanse, epi avi reket petisyon an sèvi. Pwosesis eviksyon Holdover a diferan paske li depann de konbyen tan yon lokatè te viv nan kay la oswa longè kontra-lwaye a. Si yon lokatè ap viv nan kay la mwenspase yon ane oubyen mwens gen yon kontra lwaye pou 1 ane, yo bay avi 30 jou alekri; si yon lokatè ap viv nan kay la ant 1 ak 2 ane oubyen pi piti pandan lane, yo bay avi 60 jou alekri; Si yon lokatè ap viv nan kay la 2 oubyen plis pase 2 ane, yo bay avi 90 jou alekri a. Nan ka sa a, apre lokatè a rete nan pwopriyetè apre fen peryòd avi a, yo sèvi li avi petisyon an.

Dokiman pou pote nan Tribinal

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

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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. Hopefully, the police will intervene, as outlined in the "Suffolk County Police Order Number 92-1". As this order distinguishes between those with "written evidence" of their tenancy and those who do not, we urge tenants who suspect that their landlord will act illegally to keep with them at all times copies of rent receipts and a copy of their lease, 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 "civil matters" 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 section of the law – Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law Sec. 768 (Unlawful Evictions) making an unlawful eviction a potential class-A misdemeanor 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 (631-232-2400), or east of 112 (631-369-1112) and arrange for emergency housing and storage through the Department of Social Services.

In the case of a utility shut-off by the landlord, the tenant can also call the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (631-852-5900) or their local town building 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 restored to the property. (RPAPL 713(10).

the tenant can sue for three times the damages he/she suffers (RPAPL 853). Despite the crisis situation, he/she is, in the tenants' should be careful to keep proof of his/her damages—pictures of the destroyed property, receipts for additional expenses incurred, witnesses, 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 will have to get a private attorney to take his/her case on a contingency fee basis. This means that the attorney will require no money from you, but will receive 33% of what is won. For guidance with your Small Claims Court matter, you can call NYPIRG (516-222-0086).

Furthermore, under the recently enacted Statewide Housing Security and Tenant Protection Act of 2019, RPAPL Sec. 768 provides that you may be able to seek to have your landlord arrested (class A misdemeanor) and/or sue your landlord for damages ranging from $1,000.00 to $10,000.00 for the illegal eviction, and an additional $100.00 a day for damages until your landlord restores you to the premises.

See descriptions of the law outlining illegal evictions on page 2.



LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

DESALOJOS ILEGALES EN CONDADO DE SUFFOLK Y CÓMO DETENERLOS

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

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

QUÉ HACER

Si el propietario intenta desalojarlo ilegalmente, debe llamar inmediatamente o ir a la policía. Con suerte, la policía intervendrá, como se describe en la "Orden de Policía del Condado de Suffolk Número 92-1". Dado que esta orden distingue entre aquellos con "evidencia escrita" de su arrendamiento y aquellos que no la tienen, instamos a los inquilinos que sospechan que su arrendador actuará ilegalmente a que lleven consigo en todo momento copias de los recibos de alquiler y una copia de su contrato de arrendamiento, el acuerdo del agente de bienes raíces o la declaración del propietario del desartamento de asistencia social.

Desafortunadamente, todavía hay oficiales de policía que siguen creyendo que los desalojos ilegales son "asuntos civiles" y se niegan a hacer algo en el lugar de los hechos. Si este es el caso, debe exigir presentar una denuncia policial, obtener el nombre y el número de placa de los oficiales que respondan, y hacer los arreglos para ir lo antes posible a la comisaría de policía local. Debe mostrarles la nueva sección de la ley: Ley de Acciones y Procedimientos de Bienes Raíces, Sección 768 (Desalojos ilegales), que convierte un desalojo ilegal en un posible delito menor de clase A, y la directiva de la policía y avanzar en la cadena de mando allí hasta que alguien haga algo.

Naturalmente, el inquilino también debe llamar a los Servicios Legales de Long Island si vive al oeste de la Ruta 112 (631-232-2400), o al este de la 112 (631-369-1112) y organizar una vivienda de emergencia y almacenamiento a través del Departamento de Servicios Sociales.

En el caso de un corte de servicios públicos por parte del propietario, el inquilino también puede llamar al Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Condado de Suffolk (631-852-5900) o al departamento de construcción de la ciudad local y pedirles que intervengan.

DESPUÉS

Si el arrendador lleva a cabo un desalojo ilegal, el inquilino puede presentar una Orden para mostrar causa en su tribunal local y solicitar que se le restituya la propiedad. (RPAPL 713(10).

el inquilino puede demandar por tres veces los daños y perjuicios que sufra (RPAPL 853). A pesar de la situación 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; Testigos; informes de la policía o del departamento de salud, etc.

Si los daños son menos de $5,000, el inquilino puede demandar al antiguo propietario en un tribunal de reclamos menores. Si los daños son más de $5,000, el inquilino tendrá que conseguir un abogado privado para que tome su caso en base a honorarios de contingencia. Esto significa que el abogado no requerirá dinero, sino que tomará un tercio de lo que gane. Para obtener orientación con su asunto en el Tribunal de Reclamos Menores, puede llamar a NYPIRG (516-222-0086).

Además, en virtud de la Ley Estatal de Seguridad de la Vivienda y Protección del Inquilino de 2019, la Sección 768 de RPAPL establece que es posible que usted pueda solicitar el arresto de su arrendador (delito menor de clase A) y/o demandar a su arrendador por daños y perjuicios que oscilan entre $1,000.00 y $10,000.00 por el desalojo ilegal, y $100.00 adicionales al día por daños y perjuicios hasta que su arrendador lo restablezca en las instalaciones.

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



LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

DEGÈVIKSYON ILEGAL NAN KONTE SUFFOLK AK KI JAN YO SISPANN YO

Pafwa, pwopriyetè nan Suffolk county pral eseye pa fè bagay ki ilegal mete yon lokatè deyo. Pou egzanp:

1. Jete mèb ak zafèw nan lari a
2. Retire pòt yo
3. Kadnase pòt yo
4. Chanje kadna yo
5. Fèmen chalè a oswa elektrisite
6. Fèmen dlo a
7. Kenbe zafè ou yo
8. Menase pou itilize, oswa aktyèlman itilize vyolans

KISA POU W FÈ

Si mèt kay la ap eseye mete w deyò ilegalman, ou dwe imedyatman rele oswa ale nan lapolis. Espwa lwa, lapolis ap entèvni, jan sa endike nan "Lòd Polis Konte Suffolk Nimewo 92-1". Kòm lòd sa a distenge ant moun ki gen "prèv ekri" nan lokatè yo ak moun ki pa fè sa, nou ankouraje lokatè yo ki sispèk ke mèt kay la ap aji ilegalman pou toujou pote avèk yo tout tan resi lwaye ak yon kopi kontra lwaye yo, ak kòpi anmòbliye a, oswa deklarasyon mèt kay la ki soti nan departman byennèt sosyal la.

Malerezman, toujou gen ofisye polis ki kontinye kwè ke degèpisman ilegal yo se "zafè sivil" epi refize fè anyen nan sèn nan. Si sa a se ka a, ou ta dwe mande pou depoze yon rapò lapolis, jwenn non an, ak nimewo badj ofisye k ap reponn yo, epi fè aranjman pou ale pi vit ke posib nan pwotèyon polis lokal la. Ou dwe montre yo nouvo sekasyon an nan lwa a - Aksyon Pwopriyete reyèl ak Pwosedi Lwa Sec. 768 (Ilegal Ejè ki Inil).

Natirèlman, lokatè a ta dwe rele tou Sèvis Legal nan Long Island si yo ap viv nan lwès Wout 112 (631-232-2400), oswa bò solèy leve nan 112 (631-369-1112) epi fè aranjman pou lojman jans ak depo nan Depatman Sèvis Sosyal.

Nan ka yon sèvis piblik fèmen pa mèt kay la, lokatè a ka rele tou Depatman Sèvis Sante Suffolk (631-852-5900) oswa depatman bilding vil lokal yo a epi mande yo pou entèvni.

APRE SA

Lè mèt kay la rale yon degèpisman ilegal, lokatè a kapab depoze yon lòd pou Montre Kòz nan tribinal lokal yo epi mande pou yo retabli pwopriyete a. (RPAPL 713(10).

lokatè a ka rele pou twa fwa domaj li / li soufri (RPAPL 853). Malgre sitiyasyon kriz la / li nan, lokatè a ta dwe fè atansyon kenbe prèv domaj li yo-foto pwopriyete a detwi; resi pou depans adisyonèl ki fèt; Temwen; Rapò lapolis oswa departman sante, elatriye.

Si domaj yo mwens pase $5,000, lokatè a kapab rele ansyen mèt kay la nan ti tribinal reklamasyon yo. Si domaj yo plis pase $5,000, lokatè a ap oblije jwenn yon avoka prive pou pran ka li sou yon baz frè kontenjan. Sa vle di ke avoka a pa pral mande pou okenn lajan desann, men pral pran yon tyè nan sa ki genyen. Pou w jwenn konsèy avèk ti pwoblèm Tribinal Reklamasyon w lan, ou kapab rele NYPIRG (516-222-0086).

Anplis de sa, anba lwa sou Sekirite Lojman nan tout eta a ak Lwa sou Pwotèksyon Lokatè nan 2019, RPAPL Sec. 768 bay ke ou kapab chèche gen mèt kay la arete (klas A move kondwit) ak / oswa rele mèt kay la pou domaj ki soti nan $1,000.00 a $10,000.00 pou degèpisman ilegal la, ak yon lòt $100.00 yon jou pou domaj jiskaske mèt kay la retabli ou nan lokal yo.

Gade deskripsyon lwa ki dekri degèpisman ilegal nan paj 2.



LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

Wage and Hour Information

Definitions

Waived: To waive is to voluntarily relinquish or give up a right, claim, or privilege
Credit: the right granted by a creditor to an applicant to defer payment of a debt, incur debt and defer its payment, or purchase property or services and defer payment.
Deductions: A deduction is an expense that can be subtracted from a taxpayer's gross income in order to reduce the amount of income that is subject to taxation. This lowers the taxpayer's taxable income for the year.
Employees: Any individual employed by an employer.
Employ: To suffer or permit to work.

Brief Overview

- Employee rights are found throughout federal, state, and local laws. This fact sheet will only cover basic New York State Wage and Hour Violations. For more information on employee rights feel free to visit the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour[1] section.
- These rights are covered by many different government agencies at many different levels. This fact sheet will discuss how to specifically request the help of the New York State Department of Labor.

Who qualifies for these rights?

- These rights specifically cover employees, not independent contractors. While some of these rights may be open to independent contractors, many will not be applicable.

1. https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/workers



LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

Know Your Rights: Fair Hearing Guide

updated 6/10/2025

When to Request a Fair Hearing

To challenge the reduction, discontinuation, restriction, suspension or denial of any public benefit, such as:

- Failure to send a notice or error in the notice
- Removal of a person from a budget, or the Department of Social Security (DSS) failing to add a person to the budget
- Case closing for failure to recertify
- Sanction (given a penalty)
- Inappropriate charge of overpayment or recoupment
- Incorrect budgeting of income

How to Request a Fair Hearing

- Online: https://otda.ny.gov/hearings/request/
- Mail:
  New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance,
  P.O. Box 1930
  Albany, NY 12201-1930
- Fax: (518) 473-6735
- Phone: 1 (800) 342-3334

Timeline to Request

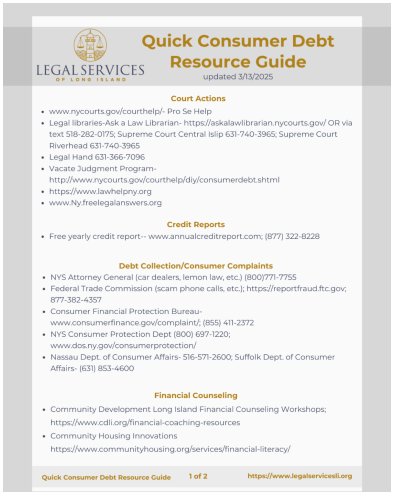
- Must be requested within 60 days of notice of agency action on a Public Assistance or Medicaid challenge.
- Must be requested within 90 days for Food Stamp Challenges
- If individual wants aid to continue: within 10 days of the notice or before the effective date of the notice

Regulations: 18 NYCRR § 358-3.5(b); 18 NYCRR § 385.2(d); SSL § 22(4)(b)

When Can Expedited Fair Hearings Be Requested

- When Rent is owed and one faces eviction
- For Expedited (emergency) food stamps
- For Utility grant to prevent shut off
- For Emergency housing issues

The request to expedite (speed up) the hearing must be made at the time the hearing request is submitted so that it can be scheduled quickly



LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

Quick Consumer Debt Resource Guide

updated 3/13/2025

Court Actions

- www.nycourts.gov/courthelp/- Pro Se Help
- Legal libraries-Ask a Law Librarian- https://askalawlibrarian.nycourts.gov/ OR via text 518-282-0715; Supreme Court Central Islip 631-740-3965; Supreme Court Riverhead 631-740-3965
- Legal Hand 631-366-7096
- Vacate Judgment Program- http://www.nycourts.gov/courthelp/diy/consumerdebt.shtml
- https://www.lawhelpny.org
- www.Ny.freelegalanswers.org

Credit Reports

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

Debt Collection/Consumer Complaints

- NYS Attorney General (car dealers, lemon law, etc.) (800)771-7755
- Federal Trade Commission (scam phone calls, etc.); https://reportfraud.ftc.gov; 877-382-4357
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau- www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/; (855) 411-2372
- NYS Consumer Protection Dept (800) 697-1220; www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection/
- Nassau Dept. of Consumer Affairs- 516-571-2600; Suffolk Dept. of Consumer Affairs- (631) 853-4600

Financial Counseling

- Community Development Long Island Financial Counseling Workshops; https://www.cdli.org/financial-coaching-resources
- Community Housing Innovations https://www.communityhousing.org/services/financial-literacy/

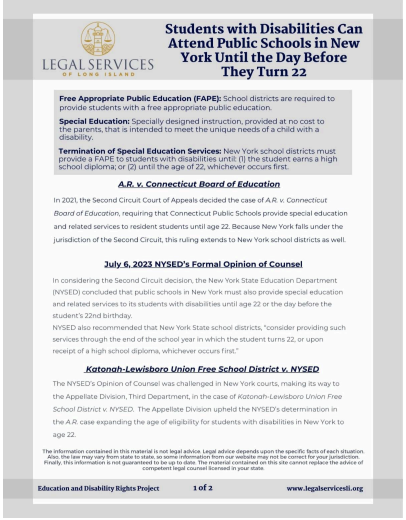
Wage and Hour Fact Sheet

Fair Hearing Guide

Quick Consumer Resource Guide



Homelessness and Reasonable Accommodations Guide



New **Students with Disabilities Can Attend Public Schools in New York Until theDay Before They Turn 22**

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 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 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 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 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 ext. 3391, rhettiarachchi@legalservicesli.org

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