

PRIVATE ATTORNEY SUPPORT

Pro Bono-Modest Means

Attorneys have a professional and ethical obligation to provide free or low cost services to persons in need. As such, the Pro Bono-Modest Means program will assist with cases to encourage and facilitate private attorney support:

- Evaluate the merit and feasibility of potential legal action in a case using an internal committee; and determine the cost-benefit of attorney involvement. These evaluations are performed prior to referring the matter to an attorney.
- Factual investigation of and liaison for the case, resulting in a memo detailing relevant facts, evidence and witnesses in the matter.
- Research legal issues resulting in a memorandum, citing cases, and statutory and administrative law.
- Provide ongoing support services for attorneys including paralegal services and elder law information and resources.

LEGAL SERVICE DEVELOPER PROGRAM

Providing Seniors in Montana with fast and easy access to the legal advice, information and advocacy that they need.



Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

Department of Public Health & Human Services

You can contact us at:

LEGAL SERVICES DEVELOPER PROGRAM

PO Box 4210

Helena, MT 59604

Phone: 1-800-332-2272 (in state)

1-800-551-3191 (out of state)

Fax: 406-444-7743

STATE OF MONTANA

LEGAL SERVICE DEVELOPER PROGRAM

LEGAL RESOURCE FOR SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES



LEGAL ACCESS FOR SENIORS

ADVOCACY

To access the Attorney-Paralegal Program call:

1-800-332-2272 In Montana

1-800-551-3191 Outside of Montana

The Legal Service Developer Program provides legal advice and advocacy assistance on 150 legal issues to persons 60 and older and their loved ones. The legal advocate will discuss both short and long-term strategy and help you decide what course of action is in your best interest. The advocate can assist you in working with other state and federal agencies as well as private non-profits and businesses as well as other resources offered by our program. The program strives to make sure that our clients not only receive advice but know how to act on the advice provided.

LEGAL ADVICE

The program contracts with attorneys and paralegals who will provide:

- Legal advice
- Research
- Document preparation assistance

The program provides quality service with a quick response time, and explains your legal issues and options in easy to understand terms.

The program does not provide assistance for family, criminal law, medical malpractice, workers compensation, Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid issues, but it does provide referrals to programs that provide assistance in those areas.

LEGAL RESOURCES

The program collaborates with other statewide and federal programs to resolve legal issues presented by seniors and their families. This may include programs such as SNAP and TANF.



LEGAL EDUCATION

The program provides legal presentations throughout Montana to persons 60 and older as well as to local advocates at the Area Agencies on Aging. Presentations emphasize educational materials and events available to the public. The materials made available are:

- The Legal Guide for Long -Term Care Planning
 - A thorough and detailed explanation of elder law for laypersons.
- Single-topic pamphlets on Specific Legal Issues
 - Advanced Directives Made Easy
 - Powers of Attorney Made Easy
 - Consumer Debt Made Less Difficult
 - Renting a Home: What Every Tenant Should Know

LEGAL CLINICS

In collaboration with Montana AAA Legal, the program provides legal document clinics at various communities throughout the state including rural and frontier locations for persons at or below 250% of the federal poverty line. The program also offers phone clinics and Indian Will clinics.

Legal Document Clinics:

We coordinate with attorneys to help you prepare legal documents such as Power of Attorneys, Wills, Beneficiary Deeds, Declaration of Homesteads and Indian Wills. We provide you with an opportunity to get your affairs in order, and safeguard your assets from fraud and exploitation.

On-Site Legal Document Clinics:

Clinics are offered annually May through October in communities across the state. The program travels to a variety of urban, rural and frontier communities each year. Clinics are advertised through the local senior centers and Areas on Aging.

Phone Legal Document Clinics:

Clinics can be conducted 1-on-1 statewide via the phone. A member of our legal team will work with you to complete your documents in one or several sessions and they will be mailed to you upon completion with instructions on what to do with each document.

Indian Wills Legal Document Clinics:

Indian Wills can be completed at both in person clinics and through phone clinics. The LSDP works with the Office of Special Trustees and tribal probate staff to help clients complete the necessary steps before coming to the clinics. The program currently has no age or income guidelines.