



Appointments required.
Call the Law Services office closest to you.

Nassau County

Hempstead Office

1 Helen Keller Way – 5th Floor
Hempstead, NY 11550-3903

Telephone (516) 292-8100
Fax Number (516) 292-6529
Volunteer Lawyers Project (516) 292-8299
Fax Number (516) 292-2618

Suffolk County

Islandia Office

(serves Suffolk West of Route 112)
1757 Veterans Highway - Suite 50
Islandia, NY 11749-1535

Telephone (631) 232-2400
Fax Number (631) 232-2489

Riverhead Office

(serves East of Route 112)

400 West Main Street, Suite 200
Riverhead, NY 11901-2840

Telephone (631) 369-1112
Fax Number (631) 369-1612

For more information on program services and funding, visit our website at www.nslawservices.org



NASSAU SUFFOLK LAW SERVICES is a non-profit law firm that provides legal assistance in civil (non-criminal) matters to people with low incomes or disabilities throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

THE EDUCATION AND DISABILITY RIGHTS PROJECT is one of our specialized programs that serves people with disabilities and children with school-related legal problems.

- We protect the educational rights of children with disabilities between the ages of 5 and 21.
- We assist children and young people with challenges in school-related to homelessness, residency status, or bullying.
- We also assist adults with developmental disabilities to obtain eligibility and services through the Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

We know how crucial legal assistance is for people struggling with issues related to their disabilities.

Early legal intervention is often the most effective way to resolve an issue before it becomes complicated. If you have a question regarding your legal rights, call Nassau Suffolk Law Services.

Our services are free of charge. Call us. We can help!

Nassau (516) 292-8100
Suffolk (631) 232-2400



Education and Disability Rights Project



Doing what's legally possible to create a just world.

www.nslawservices.org

WHAT WE DO

We protect the educational rights of **children with disabilities who are between the ages of 5 and 21**. Our work ensures that these children receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and the disability-related services required by state and federal law. We assist children and young people with a wide range of disabilities, including, for example, ADHD, learning disabilities, speech and language impairments, visual or hearing impairments, mental health issues, intellectual disability, Down Syndrome, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy. A disability is any physical or mental impairment that *substantially* limits one or more major life activities such as learning, self-care, or living independently.

We assist children and young people with **challenges in school-related to homelessness, residency status, or bullying**. The client does not need to have a disability for us to help with these issues.

We also assist adults with **developmental disabilities to obtain eligibility and services through the Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)**.



HOW WE DO IT

Special Education services.

- We offer advice about special education law for students ages 5-21 and preschool students with disabilities (ages 3-5).
- We attend Committee on Special Education (CSE) and building-level meetings to protect the educational rights of a student with (or suspected of having) a disability.
- We prepare Due Process Complaints to initiate the impartial hearing process when appropriate.
- When appropriate, we represent clients from Resolution Sessions through appeal to the State Review Office to try to resolve due process complaints.

General Education Services.

- We offer advice regarding education issues, including registration, residency disputes, bullying, homelessness, disciplinary proceedings, Child Protective Services (CPS) indications for educational neglect.
- We represent clients in residency hearings.
- We represent clients in appeals to the N.Y. Commissioner of Education to request a review of school district determinations related to residency or homelessness.

Adult Services.

- We offer advice about OPWDD eligibility, services, and crisis intervention.
- We represent clients in Fair Hearings concerning OPWDD eligibility and services.
- We attend OPWDD meetings on behalf of clients.
- We represent clients in §633.12 hearings to object to services under the Mental Hygiene Law.

Training.

We conduct community trainings and engage in outreach efforts to help promote self-advocacy skills, and to educate individuals, families, and community agencies about the rights of people with disabilities.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is based on the federal poverty level. Most people receiving need-based benefits such as public assistance, SSI, Medicaid, or food stamps are eligible.

Immigration status is a consideration as well. We can assist eligible children, even if their parents would not qualify for assistance from NSLS.

APPOINTMENTS

Call (516) 292-8100 or (631) 232-2400 to make an appointment.

FEE

NSLS does not charge clients for its services.

