

Services Offered

- Telephone “Helpline” for seniors seeking consultation and advice on their particular problem
- Telephone consultations with advocates, social workers, or family members
- Collaboration and coordination with Senior Citizen social agencies to obtain assistance for seniors
- Advocacy and representation in court and before administrative agencies
- Referrals after legal assessment
- Estate, disability, and Medicaid planning for persons of low-to-moderate means

Fees and Appointments

There is no fee for our legal services; however, your voluntary contribution will help us maintain and expand services for other older persons in our community. Many matters can be successfully handled over the telephone. We see clients by appointment. We will make special visits to those who are homebound, in-hospital, or are nursing home residents.

Telephone Resources

- **Nassau County Office for the Aging Helpline**
(516) 227-8900
- **The Safe Center**
(Elder Abuse Hotline)
(516) 542-0404
- **Nassau County Department of Social Services**
General Information
(516) 227-8519
Medicaid Information
(516) 227-8000
- **Nassau County Department of Consumer Affairs**
(516) 571-2600
- **Family & Children’s Association Senior Financial Counseling**
(516) 485-3425
(516) 292-1300
- **Coordinating Agency for Spanish Americans (CASA)**
(516)572-0750
- **Nassau Suffolk Law Services Senior Citizen Law Project Legal Helpline**
(516) 292-8088

The Senior Citizen Law Project at



“Doing What’s Legally Possible to Create a Just World”™

(516) 292-8088 phone

(516) 292-6529 fax

1 Helen Keller Way, Fifth Floor
Hempstead, NY 11550

Funded by a grant from the
Nassau County Office for the Aging



www.nslawservices.org

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Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc. Or “Law Services”

is a non profit, community based poverty law program that provides legal assistance in civil (non criminal) matters to low income, disabled, and disadvantaged persons throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Our goal is to provide quality legal services in a manner that respects the individual’s dignity and helps ensure that each person is afforded the full protection and benefits of the law.

Established in 1966, Law Services was one of the first Legal Services Corporation program in New York State.

The program is committed to helping disadvantaged persons vindicate their rights under the law. It provides free legal services in thousands of cases every year as well as community education and legal support to hundreds of community based and religious organizations that work with the poor and persons with disabilities.

The staff is comprised of attorneys, paralegals, social workers and support staff. The social work component is a unique feature of the program and is based on the recognition that some of our clients may need special support and services to deal effectively with the legal system.

Many staff members are outstanding experts in their field and have been recognized at a state and national level for the quality and critical importance of their work.

Introduction

The Senior Citizen Law Project at Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc. is funded by a grant from the Nassau County Office For the Aging, which allows us to assist seniors with certain civil (non-criminal) legal problems. Our goal is primarily to help those seniors who cannot afford a private attorney.

Eligibility

You must be age 60 or older, live in Nassau County, and have a legal issue which meets our priority guidelines. We routinely give telephone consultations for the purpose of problem analysis, information, or referral. Individual cases are accepted for representation after case evaluation.

What We Do

We address the legal needs of Nassau seniors. These needs include matters such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, health care, nursing home care, and small estate and disability planning. Our practice for seniors encompasses many different areas of law. Limitations of time and staff, the need for specialized expertise, and our focus on



those unable to afford an attorney, require that some types of cases be referred to the private bar and to other agencies.

Seniors experience a variety of problems: financial, housing, family, and health, all of which can result in legal problems. These problems, however, are often intertwined and the underlying problem may not be a legal one. Our goal is to help resolve the legal problem, address the underlying problem, and minimize the likelihood that it will occur again.

Many seniors call us with severe debt problems, which can result in harassment by creditors or bank accounts “frozen” by court order. Other seniors face the threat of foreclosures, utility shutoffs, or eviction from their homes or apartments. Some need help with financial management or may be financially exploited by others. Many seniors have insufficient income to meet their basic needs. They may experience declining health and need help in obtaining and financing health care, protecting their homes and limited financial resources through sound Medicaid planning techniques, and resolving disputes relating to health care. We have helped seniors with these and many other problems.

As the needs and concerns of seniors change, and as more seniors live to more advanced ages, the Senior Citizen Law Project continually reevaluates its priorities and services to meet the changing and evolving needs of Nassau County seniors.