

LEGAL AID OF EAST TENNESSEE



JUSTICE FOR ALL

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Serving Bledsoe, Bradley, Blount, Carter, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington Counties.

WHAT IS LEGAL AID OF EAST TENNESSEE?

Legal Aid of East Tennessee is a publicly funded law office. We provide free legal assistance to people who can not afford a private attorney. We serve 26 counties in East Tennessee.

We can not help everyone with every legal problem. There are some types of cases we do not handle. We do not take fee generating cases, such as car accidents in which you want to make the other person pay for your injuries or damage to your car. We can not represent incarcerated people. We may not be able to help you if you are not a citizen or do not have certain documentation. Other federally imposed restrictions may apply.

We **DO** help with many civil law cases. Some of the types of cases we take are listed in this pamphlet. Even if we can not represent you directly in a case, we may be able to tell you where to get help or give you advice on how to handle the case yourself.



Legal Aid of East Tennessee also has a volunteer lawyer program for each county. Many private attorneys have agreed to help us provide free legal help to low income persons through this program. Your case may be referred to a volunteer attorney who will represent you free of charge through this program.



WHAT KINDS OF PROBLEMS CAN LEGAL AID OF EAST TENNESSEE HELP WITH?

Here are some examples of the kinds of problems that Legal Aid of East Tennessee **MIGHT** be able to help:

LANDLORD/TENANT AND

- Being evicted or locked out
- Landlord will not make repairs
- Can not get deposit back
- Did not get a hearing before eviction
- Landlord turned off utilities
- Landlord will not return belongings
- Denied housing or Foreclosure



HOUSING ISSUES



SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME AND DISABILITY

- Being cut off of SSI or SSDI
- Overpayment
- Fraud

FOOD STAMPS AND FAMILIES FIRST



- Not allowed to apply or turned down
- Getting less benefits, food stamp fraud

TENNCARE / MEDICAID AND

MEDICARE



- Find a doctor to accept TennCare
- Loss of TennCare / Medicaid benefits
- Problems with your MCO
- Wrongly denied benefits

ELDER ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION



- Need protection
- File for Victims of Crime funds

CONSUMER

EMPLOYMENT

PROBLEMS

- Need unemployment benefits
- Being sued for unpaid bills
- Trouble with used car
- Repairs paid for but not completed
- Collection agencies / contract problem



**FAMILY
PROBLEMS**

- Need an Order of Protection
- File for Victims of Crime funds
- Do it yourself divorce clinics
- Education about legal rights

WHO CAN GET HELP THROUGH THE LEGAL AID OF EAST TENNESSEE?

People who are in low income households can get free legal help from Legal Aid of East Tennessee. When you call our office, you will be asked about your income and the income of others in your home. Your income must be under the current poverty guideline to make you eligible. If you are within the guidelines, you will be asked about the type of legal problem that you have. If it is the type of problem we can handle, you can then talk to one of our lawyers or to a paralegal.

Community groups may also get help from Legal Aid of East Tennessee. If the members of your group are from low income households, we may be able to help you with a specific legal problem. Also, we may be able to provide educational talks or programs to tell you about your legal rights.

Legal Aid of East Tennessee does receive funding in some communities that allows us to serve people whose income is over the Federal poverty level.

HOW MUCH DOES ASSISTANCE COST?

Legal Aid of East Tennessee does not charge for the legal help that is given. You may have to pay court costs to take a case to court. You may also have to pay for some other expenses, such as copies of records, court reporters, and so forth. However, you will not be charged for the attorney's or paralegal's time or advice.

OFFICE HOURS AND LOCATION

Legal Aid of East Tennessee offices are open from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Executive Director, David Yoder
(865)637-0484

Associate Director - Eric Miller

311 W. Walnut Street Johnson City, TN 37604 (423)928-8311 1(800)821-1312 Fax (423)928-9488	1001 W. 2nd North St. Morristown, TN 37814 (423)587-4850 1(800)821-1309 Fax (423)587-4857
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Associate Director - Debra House

502 South Gay Street Suite 404 Knoxville, TN 37902 (865)637-0484 Fax (865)525-1162	Compton Place 307 Ellis Avenue Maryville, TN 37801 (865)981-1818 Fax (865)981-1816
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Knoxville Family Justice Center
400 Harriet Tubman
Knoxville, TN 37914
(865)215-6830

Associate Director - Russell Fowler

535 Chestnut Street Suite 360 Chattanooga, TN 37402 (423)756-4013 1(800)572-7457 Fax (423)265-4164	85 Central Ave., NW, Cleveland, TN 37311 (423)479-8577 1(800)445-3219 Fax (423)339-3282
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Linea Gratis en Español 1(866)408-6573

No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

This pamphlet is intended for general information only. The circumstances of every case are different and need to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. This is not a substitute for the advice of a lawyer. Also, the law may change and may be different from county to county.

