COVID-19: Legal Aid's response to the public health crisis

The health and safety of our clients, advocates, and community are a top priority for us at Community Legal Aid. We are committed to keeping you informed and updated as we continue to respond to the ever-changing landscape surrounding Coronavirus (COVID-19). This web page will house the most up-to-date information regarding our policies and procedures for responding to the public health crisis.

We are doing our part as a community leader to help prevent further spread of the disease. But we remain diligent in our pledge to fight for justice for our impoverished and disadvantaged neighbors.

Current Policies

- We are cancelling or postponing all public events for the near future. Community members should check our online events listing for the most up-to-date list.
- We have suspended walk-in applications and have closed our offices to visitors. Residents who come to a Legal Aid office to apply will be directed to apply online 24/7 or to call our HelpLine during operational hours.
- Current clients should continue to work with their attorneys as planned.
- If your attorney schedules an in-person meeting in our office (for example, to attend a virtual court hearing), all staff and visitors will be required to wear masks, wash hands or use hand sanitizer, and will conduct self health assessments, including having temperature checked upon arrival. Any visitors to the office with a fever of 100.4 or higher, who have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 or has shown signs/symptoms of the virus, or who refuse to wear a mask, will not be permitted into Legal Aid's offices.
- We are still here and working for our clients. Anyone who needs legal assistance can apply online any time, day or night, or can call our HelpLine during operational hours.
- Any concerns or questions should be directed to info@communitylegalaid.org.
Current Case Priorities

In light of the public health crisis, Legal Aid is prioritizing legal issues that involve client health, safety, and ability to remain in stable housing, including:

- Domestic violence situations
- Housing issues, including evictions, lockouts, and unsafe or unhealthy living conditions
- Unemployment assistance and other public benefits, such as food stamps and Medicaid
- Employment issues, especially as they relate to the virus
- Advanced directives and estate planning, healthcare powers of attorney, and living wills

In order to better serve these high-priority issues, Legal Aid currently is not taking cases related to the following:

- Child support
- Custody issues
- Divorce or dissolution

Recent News/Press Releases

You can view our most recent press releases about our response to the COVID-19 outbreak by visiting our news page.

Legal Education & Resources

We're pleased to offer our live Ask A Lawyer events throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. These online events are free and open to the public. To join, simply visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CommLegalAid) at 5:00 p.m. any Wednesday for information about a legal topic related to Covid-19, and for a chance to ask our attorneys questions you have on those topics.

Learn about the help available from the American Recovery Plan in our video series here.

We continue to develop educational pieces for legal issues surrounding the Coronavirus. You can see all available material here.

Debt and payment issues

Visitation and child support during the public health crisis
Social Security Benefits and proceedings during COVID-19

Eviction proceedings during COVID-19 (also, see our eviction toolkit below)

IRS & tax implications for COVID-19

Preparing legally for a medical emergency

Safety tips for domestic violence victims during isolation/social distancing

Special education needs during school closures

Workers' rights during the Coronavirus

Pandemic EBT program

Information related to the American Rescue Plan

Video series on stimulus payment, taxes, and unemployment benefits under the plan.

American Rescue Plan

Information related to evictions

Eviction help

Information related to unemployment assistance

Unemployment Help

Information related to the CARES Act economic stimulus payment

Stimulus Payment

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