

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

LawNY® provides legal advice and representation in any of our practice areas to Kinship Caregivers and their families; Veterans and their families; and homeless individuals who have been denied housing or employment due to credit or criminal history.

UNEMPLOYMENT

LawNY® has a partnership with Volunteer Legal Services Project to provide legal services to those who have applied for unemployment insurance benefits and have been denied or had their benefits discontinued.

For more information call Volunteer Legal Services Project at (585) 232-3051.

EMPLOYMENT & REENTRY

LawNY® provides advice and legal services, including representation for employment discrimination lawsuits in the Division of Human Rights and the Courts to people who believe they may have been the victims of employment discrimination or are facing barriers to obtaining employment. We assist individuals re-entering society from incarceration and persons with criminal records. Priority is given to assist individuals with criminal records obtain or maintain their employment. Employment issues include, but are not limited to the following:

- ◆ Denial or termination of employment
- ◆ Ineligibility for licensure, permits or contracts
- ◆ Disqualification from public education
- ◆ Child Support arrears that accrued during a period of incarceration
- ◆ Obtaining clearance to work in the healthcare field

GETTING HELP

Please call our office at **PHONE: (585) 325-2520** or **TDD: (585) 325-2547** for intake hours. You then will be connected with an intake specialist who will ask you questions about the type of problem you are having. You will be asked your age, income and other questions relating to your living status, which will help us determine if you are eligible for our services, and who will be able to assist you.

This information will help advocates determine the best course of action to take.

The more information you can provide to the intake worker the better the advocate can be prepared when you are contacted.

Sometimes you will be asked to call back at a certain time to speak with an attorney or a paralegal, or they will call you back.

Some brief service may be done on your case without you having to come to the office. If you need to see the assigned attorney or paralegal it is best to call first and make an appointment with the advocate on your case.

HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

If you only speak Spanish or you are more at ease speaking Spanish, you may speak with our Spanish speaking staff.

Si usted solamente habla español, o se siente mas comodo hablando español, usted puede hablar con nuestros empleados quien hablan Español.

We have Spanish speaking legal staff that will provide advice and assistance in our legal practice area.

Nosotros tenemos empleados legal que hablan español y pueden proveer consejo y ayuda en nuestra área de practica legal.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.®

THE ROCHESTER OFFICE
HON. MICHAEL A. TELESKA
CENTER FOR JUSTICE
ONE WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 400
ROCHESTER, NY 14614
PHONE ~ (585) 325-2520
TDD ~ (585) 325-2547
FAX ~ (585) 325-2559
WEBSITE ~ www.lawny.org
Updated March 2015

Need Legal Assistance?



LEGAL ASSISTANCE OF WESTERN
NEW YORK, INC.®
ROCHESTER OFFICE

ABOUT LAWNY®

The Rochester Office of **LEGAL ASSISTANCE OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.®** (LawNY®) was created in 1968 to provide free legal advice and representation in non-criminal matters to low-income people. LawNY® is a not-for-profit law firm governed by a Board of Directors comprised of local attorneys and low-income people appointed by various community organizations. We serve Monroe County. LawNY also serves 13 other counties through other offices.

We receive government grants and private funds to pay for our work. **You will not be charged a fee for our services.**

PUBLIC BENEFITS

Advocates work with case workers at the Monroe County Department of Human Services, to try to resolve your problem. In some cases representation to proceed in conferences, fair hearings, or court is available where there is enough merit. You may receive advice about public benefits problems including:

- ◆ **Public Assistance**
- ◆ **SNAP (Food Stamps)**
- ◆ **Medicaid**
- ◆ **Childcare**
- ◆ **Child Only/Kinship Care Benefits**
- ◆ **RG&E Shut Off**
- ◆ **Denial of Shelter Placement**

We usually limit representation to individuals whose Public Assistance, SNAP (food stamps) and/or Medicaid cases have been:

- ◆ **Denied**
- ◆ **Discontinued**
- ◆ **Sanctioned**

SENIORS' LEGAL SERVICES

Seniors' Legal Services (SLS) provides legal advice and representation to clients 60 years old and older. We accept cases involving:

- ◆ **Medicare, Medicaid—including Supplemental Needs Pooled Income Trusts**
- ◆ **Health Care Issues and Advance Directives**
- ◆ **Powers of Attorney**
- ◆ **Housing**
- ◆ **Rights of Nursing Home Residents**

- ◆ **Social Security, SSI & SSD**
- ◆ **Public Benefits**
- ◆ **Debtor/Creditor Issues**

Seniors' Legal Services makes referrals to private attorneys in cases where we are unable to represent individuals due to our limited resources.

HOUSING

Attorneys represent low-income people who have housing problems. After you speak with a staff member, a decision will be made as to whether we can represent you and what kind of services we will agree to provide. This decision will be based on the type of problem, the legal merits of your case, and the resources we have available. While some problems may require going to court, many problems can be handled by negotiating with your landlord or others on the telephone. For example, we might agree to give you advice, help you prepare documents, negotiate out of court, or represent you in court.

Housing problems you may receive advice about include:

- ◆ **Eviction Cases (City/Suburb)**
- ◆ **Public/Subsidized Housing Problems**
- ◆ **Section 8 Housing Problems**
- ◆ **Tenants Rights & Responsibilities**
- ◆ **Poor Housing Conditions**
- ◆ **Illegal Lock-outs**
- ◆ **Illegal Utility Shut-offs**
- ◆ **Denial of Housing Subsidy**

HEALTH

Our Health unit consists of two programs: Community Health Advocates (CHA) and Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN). Health Advocates may assist in the following areas:

- ◆ **Medicare and Medicaid Questions Regarding Long-Term Care**
- ◆ **Managed Care Options**
- ◆ **Health Plan or Provider Problems**
- ◆ **Medical Billing Disputes**
- ◆ **Prescription Drug Assistance Programs**
- ◆ **Medical Services & Equipment Needs**
- ◆ **Complaints and Appeals Rights**

HEALTH INSURANCE NAVIGATORS

We screen and enroll individuals in Health Insurance Programs that reside in Monroe and Livingston County. For more information and appointments call 1-855-250-7748.

THE NUTRITION OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Nutrition Outreach & Education Program (NOEP) can help any Monroe County resident learn if he or she is eligible for SNAP (food stamps). If a client appears to be eligible for SNAP, our staff will provide the individuals with applications and application assistance. We will stay in touch with clients throughout the process to make sure everything goes smoothly and the client receives the correct amount of SNAP benefits. We also make referrals to other nutrition, health & human services programs. We welcome referrals and questions from agency representatives, volunteers and clients.

For more information, call (585) 295-5624 or (585) 295-5626.

FAIR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT PROJECT (FHEP)

We provide advice and legal services, including representation for housing discrimination lawsuits in federal court, to people who believe they may have been victims of housing discrimination on the basis of:

- ◆ **Race/Color**
- ◆ **National Origin**
- ◆ **Religion**
- ◆ **Gender**
- ◆ **Familial Status (families w/ children)**
- ◆ **Disability**
- ◆ **Sexual Orientation**
- ◆ **Military Status**
- ◆ **Marital Status**
- ◆ **Age**

For more information call (585) 325-2500.