

Boston ElderINFO

Boston Legal Resources

Boston ElderINFO makes no statements about the quality of the service provided by the listings in this booklet and cannot be held responsible for the quality of service they provide.

Boston ElderINFO, the Information and Referral program of Boston Senior Home Care, Central Boston Elder Services, and Ethos is funded in whole or in part, by contracts with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

*For Information and Referrals in Boston call Boston ElderINFO 617-292-6211 TTY 617-451-6404
For Information and Referrals outside of Boston call 1-800-AGE-INFO (800-243-4636) TTY 800-872-0166*

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Legal Assistance in Massachusetts

Legal Services programs give free legal help to low-income and elderly residents for non-criminal matters. Legal Services programs get funds from the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, the National Legal Services Corporation, non-profit agencies, private corporations, and individual donors.

Legal Services programs help with non-criminal legal problems such as:

- claims for government benefits such as SSI and welfare
- housing/homelessness issues such as evictions, tenant/landlord disputes, and housing discrimination
- family law, including divorces, child custody, and domestic violence
- consumer issues
- employee rights
- elder law, such as rights of nursing home residents
- mental health and disability issues, especially where benefits are denied
- immigration law
- other non-criminal legal problems

Because of limited funds, Legal Services organizations may give priority to certain types of legal cases. Priorities depend on the needs of the people in the service area.

When you call, a Legal Services staff member will discuss your situation with you to find out what sort of legal help you need. The Legal Services staff may:

- give you advice over the phone
- send you self-help information or forms
- provide a legal services lawyer to help you
- find a private volunteer lawyer willing to help you

Notes:

Dial-A-Lawyer

Massachusetts Bar Association
20 West Street
Boston, MA 02111

Phone: 617-338-0500
Dial-A-Lawyer: 617-338-0610

www.massbar.org/for-the-public/

The Massachusetts Bar Association's Dial-A-Lawyer program gives free basic legal advice over the phone to Massachusetts residents. The legal advice is free, and there is no limit to the number of times you may call. Volunteer lawyers with a wide range of experience are available to answer questions.

The program is open to anyone with a civil or criminal legal question, but is especially designed to help Massachusetts residents who are not eligible for free Legal Services and cannot afford to hire a lawyer.

- Dial-A-Lawyer hours: first Wednesday of every month, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Phone lines may be very busy during the Dial-A-Lawyer hours. Keep trying to get through.

Disability Law Center (DLC)

11 Beacon Street Ste. 925
Boston, Massachusetts, 02108

Phone: 617-723-8455
800-872-9992
TTY: 617-227-9464 / 800-381-0577

<http://www.dlc-ma.org/>

DLC is a Protection and Advocacy agency for Massachusetts. Their Mission is to provide legal advocacy on disability issues that promote the fundamental rights of all people with disabilities to participate fully and equally in the social and economic life of Massachusetts. They provide information, referral, technical assistance and representation regarding legal rights and services for people who have a wide range of physical, psychiatric, sensory and cognitive disabilities.

DLC has experienced staff to provide services in the following issue areas:

Access to Community Services
Special Education
Health Care

Disability Benefits
Rights and Conditions in Facilities

Elder Law Project

Women's Bar Foundation

Phone: 617-651-2357

www.womensbar.org

elderlawproject@womensbar.org

The Elder Law Project at the Women's Bar Foundation assists low income seniors prepare simple wills, Olmsted declarations, Health Care Proxies, and powers of attorney documents.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)

30 Winter Street Ste. 800
Boston, MA 02108

Phone: 617-426-1350
Legal InfoLine: 800-455-4523

<http://www.glad.org/>

Founded in 1978, GLAD is New England's leading legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression.

GLAD's bold and effective advocacy has achieved scores of precedent-setting legal victories to end discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression, benefiting individuals, couples and families across New England and throughout the United States.

Each time GLAD argues a case or tackles an issue, we tear down more of the outdated laws and stereotypes that have denied LGBT people and people with HIV basic protections and opportunities in every area of daily life – family, school, employment, housing, government, health care, and beyond.

Whether it's marriage for same-sex couples, non-discrimination policies for transgender people in the workplace, or protections for people with HIV, GLAD doesn't shrink from tough issues. And we don't compromise on our belief that every citizen deserves full equality under the law – without exception.

- Call or chat with GLAD's Legal InfoLine Monday through Friday, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM EST, or email us anytime using the form found at All inquiries to GLAD's Legal InfoLine are completely confidential; GLAD will not disclose any information provided.
- 1-800-455-GLAD (4523)

Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)

197 Friend Street
Boston, MA 02114

Phone: 800-323-3205
617-371-1234

<http://www.gbls.org/>

GBLS provides free legal assistance and representation on civil (noncriminal) matters to hundreds of the neediest residents in the city of Boston and 31 surrounding cities and towns.

GBLS represents low-income individuals and families, assisting individual clients to secure some of the most basic necessities of life as well as addressing systemic problems that adversely impact their lives. We also represent community groups in advancing the interests of their low-income constituents and provide community legal education. We give advice and represent people in court, before agencies, and before city councils and the state legislature.

Health Law Advocates (HLA)

30 Winter Street Ste. 1004
Boston, MA 02108

Intake Paralegal Line: 617-338-5241

www.healthlawadvocates.org

HLA provides free legal assistance to people having trouble getting health care or health insurance benefits. Income must be less than 300% Federal Poverty guidelines and lack other financial means to afford a private lawyer.

Legal Advocacy and Resource Center (LARC)

<http://www.larcma.org/home>

LARC has a free legal help hotline to help low-income Massachusetts residents with non-criminal legal problems. In addition, LARC does intake screenings for the Volunteer Lawyers Project and several legal services offices in the greater Boston area.

- Hotline: 1-800-342-LAWS or 617-603-1700
- Bankruptcy Line for low-income (200%FPL) individuals 617-603-1704
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9 am – 1 pm; Tuesday 9 am – 12 pm

When you call the LARC hotline, a staff member will interview you about your legal problem. Depending on your situation, LARC will then:

- give you free legal advice by phone
- send you free written legal information and/or forms
- refer you to a legal services agency for free legal representation
- refer you to a private law agency that will take your case for a fee
- refer you to other government or social service agencies

LARC can help with a wide range of non-criminal legal problems, but especially problems with housing, family law, public benefits, employment, and consumer issues. They do not represent clients, but rather to refer to other agencies.

Legal Services Center (also known as Wilmer Hale Legal Services or Hale & Dorr Legal Services Center)

www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/lsc/

Massachusetts Legal Websites Project

www.masslegalhelp.org

They connect, support, and educate the general public on legal services through online information.

www.masslegalservices.org

They offer resources and information about legal issues facing lower income MA residents. This site is useful for social service agencies, legal advocates, and lawyers.

Do you need help with a legal problem in MA? The Legal Resource Finder will give contact information for legal aid programs, other non-profits, government agencies, and court based programs that may be able to help you with your legal issue.

Go here to start the online search: www.masslegalservices.org/findlegalaid

Massachusetts Senior Legal Helpline

Phone: 866-778-0939

Brochure: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/pdf/20110622-ElderLegalHotlineFlyer.pdf>

The Massachusetts Senior Legal Helpline provides free legal advice, information, and referrals to Massachusetts seniors age 60 or older. The Senior Legal Helpline is for non-criminal legal issues such as social security, MassHealth, housing and utilities, nursing homes, guardianship, consumer debt, and other similar problems.

The Helpline is a joint project of the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs, the Legal Advocacy and Resource Center (LARC), and the Massachusetts legal services community.

Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee (MHLAC)

Phone: 617-338-2345 or 1-800-342-9092 and press "4"

Email: Intake@mhlac.org

www.mhlac.org/Intake.htm

MHLAC provides comprehensive information and advice to individuals of any age involved with the Massachusetts mental health system through the MHLAC Intake Line. To have a legal advocate contact you regarding an intake matter, you must call the MHLAC Intake Line and leave a voice mail message.

The intake line is used for situations involving health insurance, family law, education, mental health facilities & emergency room, residential, medical treatment discrimination, etc.

Ombudsman Programs

Long Term Care:

Boston – Ethos 617-522-6700

Assisted Living: Elder Affairs 800-AGE-INFO or 617-727-7750

One Care: 855-781-9898