

VLSP

Volunteer Legal Services Project

You may be eligible for free legal services through VLSP if you live in Monroe County and have very limited income and assets.

VLSP can only represent people whose income and assets are below our financial guidelines.

VLSP can help with a wide variety of non-criminal legal problems. All of the legal work is performed by private attorneys who volunteer to help VLSP's clients for no fee. In some areas, there are far more clients seeking help than there are volunteer attorneys available to help. In these areas, VLSP must limit its work to certain types of cases.



ABOUT VLSP

VLSP provides legal advice and representation to low-income Monroe County residents with non-criminal legal problems. All legal work is performed by private attorneys who volunteer to help VLSP's clients for no fee. Although legal help is free, clients are expected to pay for court costs (for example, filing fees) if necessary in their cases.



Volunteer Legal Services Project

1 West Main Street, 5th Fl.
Rochester, NY 14614
Phone: 585-232-3051
Fax: 585-232-5103

Interpretype® Available

VLSP

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Free Legal Services
For People with
Limited Income and Assets

For information:
Phone: 585-232-3051

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VLSP handles cases in the following areas:

Divorce

VLSP handles divorces for people who have been victims of recent, serious physical abuse or when children have been abused.

VLSP also runs a “do-it-yourself” divorce class for people seeking divorce who have no issues in dispute (e.g. child or spousal support, custody or visitation, rights to a residence or pension).

Custody/Visitation

VLSP operates a clinic in which volunteer attorneys help people complete Family Court Petitions for custody, visitation or guardianship and give instructions on filing those petitions with Family Court. Most parents get assigned counsel when they appear in Family Court.

Child Support

VLSP represents petitioners for child support and custodial parents seeking to enforce a child support order. In limited cases, VLSP will seek downward modification of child support if a substantial portion of a non-custodial parent’s income is taken for child support.

SSI

VLSP represents claimants for SSI benefits at the hearing level only. All SSI cases are screened by the Empire Justice Center, 585-454-4060.

Unemployment Insurance

VLSP represents claimants whose claims for unemployment insurance benefits have been turned down by the Department of Labor or challenged by the employer. VLSP handles these cases at the hearing level only.

Debt Problems

At VLSP’s Debt Collection Advice Clinic, volunteer attorneys meet privately with clients with problems such as garnishment, collection efforts, repossession, etc. Attorneys analyze debt situations and give self-help advice and clients may qualify to receive further help in bankruptcy or repossession defense.

Employment

VLSP helps when legal problems prevent a person from getting or keeping employment. Examples include problems with LPN licenses, foster care licenses, child abuse records, driver’s license lost because of unpaid judgment or child support. We cannot help if the license is suspended because of fines or penalties.

Consumer Problems

VLSP helps with problems like “lemon” cars, liens on bank accounts, unfair contracts, insurance coverage and claims, student loans, rent-to-own, etc.

.Other Areas Where VLSP Can Help

- Adoption
- Landlord-Tenant problems other than eviction
- Pension
- Real Estate, e.g. deed transfers
- Habitat closings, foreclosure, land contracts
- Tax Problems—IRS (and ancillary state issues)
- Tort Defense—for defendants only, sued for personal injury or property damage
- Estate administration for estates of limited value
- Immigration

VLSP does not handle:

- Criminal matters
- Fee generating cases, such as suing for personal injury

How to Get Help

Call VLSP at 585-232-3051. VLSP operates by appointment only; please do not come in without an appointment. Interprettype® available.

Other VLSP Services:

Positive Planning for Families Living with HIV/AIDS

Standby Guardianship/Guardianship

For parents with HIV/AIDS or other serious illnesses, VLSP can help with planning for the future care of children. VLSP can also help family members and others who are taking care of children to obtain guardianship.

Wills, powers of attorney and health care directives for people with HIV/AIDS or terminal illnesses.

For more information on these services call: Ann Williams, Esq. 585-295-5708 or Julie Petroske, Paralegal 585-295-5709.

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