

Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota

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Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota

Civil legal aid

***Free legal help in civil
(non-criminal) cases***

***Serving low-income
families and individuals
and seniors***



Service area



Lobbying Contact:
 Cristine Almeida
 Almeida Public Affairs, LLC
 612.770.8578

Regional Program Directors:

- Anishinabe Legal Services (Cass Lake, Red Lake, White Earth) o Cody Nelson, 218.335.2223
- Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota (Alexandria, Bemidji, Moorhead) o Anne Hoefgen, 218.233.8585
- Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota (Duluth, Grand Rapids, Virginia, Brainerd, Pine City) o Owen Undergraff, 218.623.8107
- Judicare of Anoka County (Anoka) o Floyd Pniewski, 763.783.4970
- Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid (Minneapolis, Saint Cloud, Willmar) o Cathy Haukedahl, 612.332.1441
- Central Minnesota Legal Services (Minneapolis, Saint Cloud, Willmar) o Jean Lastine, 612.332.8151
- Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (Albert Lea, Mankato, Rochester, Saint Paul, Shakopee, Winona, Worthington) o Jessie Nicholson, 651.228.9823

THE NEED FOR CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES



Due to lack of resources, CLS is forced to turn away over half of the eligible people seeking service.

In Minnesota, there is one private attorney for every 432 potential paying clients, compared to one legal aid attorney for every 5,773 low-income individuals.



Private Attorney

432 potential paying clients



Legal Aid Attorney

5,773 low-income individuals



WHAT IS CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES?

Civil Legal Services (“CLS”) – or “legal aid” – is free legal help to people with low incomes who have civil (non-criminal) legal problems.

Civil Legal Services is more than the definition above. It is about dignity and basic human needs. It is about justice for all, not just those who can afford it.

Some examples of civil legal issues include:



FAMILY

- Domestic Violence
- Divorce
- Custody
- Parenting Time
- Child Support
- Grandparent Rights



HOUSING

- Eviction
- Foreclosure
- Repairs
- Utility Shut-off
- Discrimination
- Reasonable Accommodations



ECONOMIC STABILITY

- Unemployment
- Health Care
- Education
- Employment
- Social Security
- Veterans Benefits

Senior specific cases

- Access to health care
- Nursing home evictions/rights
- Advance Planning
- Wills
- Home ownership issues
- Social Security issues
- Reasonable accommodations



SERVICES WE DELIVER

REPRESENTATION



Attorney representation in court and administrative proceedings.

ADVICE & LIMITED REPRESENTATION



Brief services to provide advice, consultation, negotiation, form assistance and referrals.

EDUCATION & SELF HELP RESOURCES



Education programs for public and professionals. Web-based services, including LawHelpMN.org, ProJusticeMN.org, and Minnesota Legal Advice Online (mnlegaladvice.org).

CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES CARES ACT FUNDING



www.reachjustice.org



Technology

Includes Legal Kiosk Project, technology, LawHelpMN upgrades, and PPE.



Justice Bus (4)

Four mobile offices throughout Minnesota.



Direct Service

Funding for direct client services.

Community Education

- Educate community on rights/responsibilities
- Stop legal abuses
- Prevent problems from arising
- Provide information about emerging issues
- Keep meritless cases out of court
- Help with simple documents
- If you ask us we will come!

Applying for services

- Telephone (1-800-450-8585)
- On-line (LSNMLAW.org)
- Paper applications (LSNMLAW.org)
- In-person
- Community Educations
- Legal Kiosks
- Justice Bus Events

Questions?

