

WHO CAN GET HELP THROUGH THE LEGAL AID OF EAST TENNESSEE?

People who are in low-income households can get free legal help from Legal Aid of East Tennessee. When you call our office, you will be asked about your income and the income of others in your home. Your income must be under the current poverty guidelines to make you eligible. If you are within the guidelines, you will be asked about the type of legal problem that you have. If it is the type of problem we can handle, you can then talk to one of our lawyers or to a paralegal.

Community groups may also get help from Legal Aid of East Tennessee. If the members of your group are from low-income households, we may be able to help you with a specific legal problem. Also, we may be able to provide educational talks or programs to tell you about your legal rights.

Legal Aid of East Tennessee does receive funding in some communities that allows us to serve people whose income is over the federal poverty level.

HOW MUCH DOES LEGAL HELP COST?

Legal Aid of East Tennessee does not charge for the legal help that is given. You may have to pay court costs to take a case to court. You may also have to pay for some other expenses, such as copies of records, court reporters, and so forth. However, you will not be charged for the attorney's or paralegal's time or advice.

OFFICE HOURS AND LOCATION

Legal Aid of East Tennessee offices are open from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Executive Director, David Yoder

Associate Director, Eric Miller

311 W. Walnut Street Johnson City, TN 37604 (423)928-8311 1(800)821-1312 Fax (423)928-9488	1001 W 2nd North St. Morristown, TN 37814 (423)587-4850 1(800)821-1309 Fax (423)587-4857
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Associate Director, Debra House

502 South Gay Street Suite 404 Knoxville, TN 37902 (865)637-0484 Fax (865)525-1162	Compton Place 307 Ellis Avenue Maryville, TN 37801 (865)981-1818 Fax (865)981-1816
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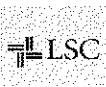
Associate Director, Russell Fowler

744 McCallie Avenue Suite 410 Chattanooga, TN 37403 (423)756-4013 1(800)572-7457 Fax (423)265-4164	85 Central Ave., NW Cleveland, TN 37311 (423)479-8577 1(800)445-3219 Fax (423)339-3282
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Linea Gratis en Español 1-866-408-6573

No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

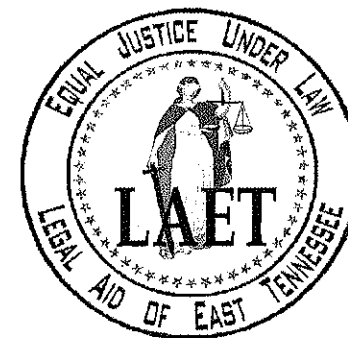
This pamphlet is intended for general information only. The circumstances of every case are different and need to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. This is not a substitute for the advice of a lawyer. Also, the law may change and may be different from county to county.



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LEGAL AID OF EAST TENNESSEE



Serving Bledsoe, Bradley, Blount,
Carter, Cocke, Grainger, Greene,
Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins,
Jefferson, Johnson,
Knox, Loudon, Marion, McMinn, Meigs,
Monroe, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie, Sevier,
Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington
Counties.

WHAT IS LEGAL AID OF EAST TENNESSEE?

Legal Aid of East Tennessee is a publicly funded law office. We give free legal help to people who cannot afford to pay a lawyer. We serve 26 counties in East Tennessee.

We cannot help everyone with every legal problem. There are some types of cases we do not handle. We do not take fee-generating cases, such as car accidents in which you want to make the other person pay for your injuries or the damage to your car. We cannot represent incarcerated people. We may not be able to help you if you are not a citizen and do not have an alien card. Other federally imposed restrictions apply.

We **DO** help with many civil law cases. Some of the kinds of cases that we take are listed in this pamphlet. Even if we cannot represent you directly in a case, we may be able to tell you where to get help or give you advice that will help you handle the case yourself.

Legal Aid of East Tennessee also has a volunteer lawyer program for each county. Many private attorneys have agreed to help us provide free legal help to low-income persons through this program. Your case may be referred to a volunteer attorney who will represent you free of charge through the volunteer lawyer program.

WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS CAN LEGAL AID OF EAST TENNESSEE HELP ME WITH?

Here are examples of the kinds of problems with which Legal Aid of East Tennessee might be able to help:

LANDLORD TENANT OR HOUSING:

- being evicted or locked out?
- landlord won't make repairs?
- cannot get deposit back?
- did not get a hearing before you were evicted?
- landlord shut off utilities?
- landlord will not return belongings?
- denied housing?

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) OR DISABILITY:

- cannot get SSI?
- being cut off of SSI or SSA?
- taking too long to get your benefits?
- overpayment?

FOOD STAMPS AND FAMILIES FIRST:

- not allowed to apply?
- turned down? Not sure why?
- getting fewer stamps or benefits and don't know why?
- cannot replace stolen stamps?
- trouble reporting monthly changes?
- child support payment, bonus or supplement check problems?
- problems with your Personal Responsibility Plan?

TENNCARE/MEDICAID AND MEDICARE

- cannot get TennCare/Medicaid or Medicare
- cannot find a doctor who will accept TennCare/Medicaid?
- TennCare/Medicaid benefits cut off?
- problems with your TennCare MCO?

ELDER ABUSE OR EXPLOITATION:

- need protection?
- need to file Victims of Crime compensation documents?

HEALTH CARE:

- cannot get into a hospital or nursing home?
- cannot get help paying medical bills?
- trouble getting prenatal or other health care?
- health insurance problems?

EMPLOYMENT:

- need unemployment benefits?
- discrimination in getting a job or getting promoted?
- unsafe working conditions?
- cannot get paid?
- job harassment?

UTILITY PROBLEMS:

- bills too high?
- service shut off without notice?
- refused service?
- cannot get a telephone?
- cannot get utility service?

CONSUMER PROBLEMS:

- being sued for unpaid bills?
- trouble with a used car?
- cannot get a loan?
- home or car repairs paid for but not done?
- being bothered by collection agencies?
- problems with a contract?

FAMILY PROBLEMS:

- need an Order of Protection or a divorce?
- need to file for Victims of Crime funds?
- children kidnapped or stolen?
- being sued for custody?
- child protective services involved?

EDUCATION:

- child not learning?
- handicapped child not given help?
- no school breakfasts?
- child punished or suspended?
- school fees questions?

COMMUNITY BASED PROBLEMS:

- cannot get the city or county to provide services or to clean up a dangerous neighborhood?
- need education about your legal rights?