LAND OF LINCOLN
-LEGAL AID-

Breaking Barriers to Justice

877-342-7891

LINCOLNLEGAL.ORG

Outline

Overview of Land of Lincoln

- Who We Are
- What We Do
- Our Services

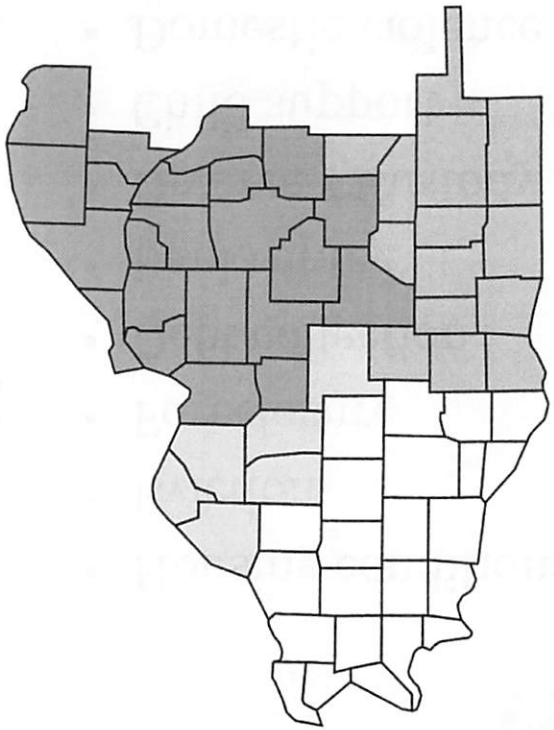
How to Request our Services

- Project Specific Direct Referrals
- Direct Requests through Hotlines

Wrap Up

- Questions
- Contact Info

Who we are—Land of Lincoln Legal Aid



- Civil legal aid. Serving low-income clients living in 65 Southern Illinois Counties
- 5 regional offices (& 4 satellite offices)
  - Central Regional Office (East St. Louis)
  - Eastern Regional Office (Champaign)
  - Northern Regional Office (Springfield)
  - Southern Regional Office (Carbondale)
    - Serve the 23 most Southern Counties
    - Our satellite office is in Mt. Vernon
  - Western Regional Office (Alton)
  - LARC—Hotline

What We Do

- Housing conditions
- Eviction
- Foreclosure
- Debt collection
- Bankruptcy
- Divorce / Custody
- Child support
- Domestic violence
- Education

- Expungement / Sealing of criminal records
- SNAP / Food stamps
- Medicaid / Medicare
- Disability benefits
- Other public benefits
- Powers of Attorney
- Guardianship
- Simple wills

No criminal, personal injury, malpractice, or worker's compensation cases.

Who is eligible for our services?

- When applying for our legal services, the applicant will need to share their household's income, assets, family size, zip code, race, age, etc.
- We have income and asset limits on our assistance. If an applicant financially qualifies, LOLLA does not charge. We are NOT a sliding scale service.
- A lot of our special projects have higher income limits on eligibility.
- Because our services are in such high demand, we have to limit the types of issues we assist with.
- Depending on resources and staffing, we sometimes must close our intake for new cases completely.

How to Request Assistance

- Apply for Assistance Directly
  - Hotline
  - Online
- Special Project Referrals from Community Partners
  - Medical Legal Partnership of Southern Illinois (MLPSI)
  - IL-AFLAN: Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network
  - VOCA: Victims of Crime Act
  - A2J: Illinois Access 2 Justice Program

Direct Requests for Assistance

- Legal Advice & Referral Center
  - 877-342-7891
  - M-R: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. & F: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Eviction & Fresh Start Project Hotline
  - 877-601-9474
  - M-F: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Online at our website. It will direct applicants to Illinoislegalaidonline.org

Medical-Legal Partnership of Southern Illinois

- Partnership between LOLLA and SIH founded in 2002.
- Goal is to improve patient health by addressing unmet legal needs and alleviating related stress
- Medical providers watch for factors indicating a legal need and refer patients directly to LOLLA
- Referrals accepted from:
  - Southern Illinois Healthcare
  - Southern Illinois Medical Services
  - Shawnee Health Services
  - Shawnee Alliance for Seniors

IL-AFLAN: Armed Services

- Partnered with the Marion VA Medical Center
  - Receive referrals directly from the VA
- Expedites the eligibility determination process for veterans
- AFLAN also operates a statewide hotline which refers eligible callers to the appropriate agency for assistance, including to Land of Lincoln
  - **Hotline:** has associated webpage where referrals are placed-- CARPLS (Coordinate Advice and Referral Program for Legal Services)
  - **Timeline for referrals (CARPLS):** client should have an attempted contact within 5 days= accept/reject referral within 48 business hours; if accept, attempt to contact client within 72 hours after accepting.
- Finally, if a caller to Land of Lincoln's LARC hotline is eligible under AFLAN funding, they are routed to this program as well

A2J Program

- Seeks to mitigate the impacts of interactions with the criminal justice system
- Addresses legal issues stemming from a person's criminal record
  - Expungement or sealing of record
  - Denial of admission to public housing
  - Housing, public benefits, and bankruptcy
- We can do criminal expungement and sealing cases. If those persons are facing housing discrimination *as a result of their criminal record*, a denial of admission to public housing, or a consumer issue (bankruptcy needed b/c of bills and voluminous credit card interest accrued during stay in jail/prison), we can assist. **There must be a nexus between their criminal record/incarceration and the other civil legal problem.**

A2J Program

- Direct referrals from various employment and re-entry services
  - Man-Tra-Con Corporation
  - American Job Center
  - Lutheran Social Services
- Intake specialist receives referral from partner and contacts client

MAN-TRA-CON CORPORATION

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

AmericanJobCenter® SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

VOCA: Victims of Crime Act Funding

- Currently receive specific funding to assist survivors of domestic violence in orders of protections (including SNCO) and family law issues.
- All staff working on the grant must take a 40-hour DV training.
- This funding is county specific—based upon the county of dispute. (All 1st Circuit)
- We do not typically assist with the Emergency Orders of Protection or completing the Petition.
- Helpful to send the Petition and the EOP (if granted) along with the referral form.
- Only assist with defense of OP's if it is being used by the abuser to obtain possession of the child/children

Clearing Cannabis Records

- New Leaf Illinois is a statewide, state-funded initiative made up of non-profits throughout Illinois who provide free legal representation or legal information to people who want their cannabis convictions off their record.
- New Leaf Illinois is committed to equal justice for all those who were previously arrested or convicted for cannabis use, production, and sale. The expungement process is one step toward repairing the damage caused by the war on drugs which unfairly impacted people of color and the economically disenfranchised.
- Land of Lincoln is proud to partner with New Leaf Illinois and other civil legal aid and advocacy partners across the state.
- This is just additional targeted funding, rather than a separate referral process

NEW LEAF
ILLINOIS

clearing cannabis convictions

Advanced Directives:

- Will
- Powers of Attorney (Healthcare and Property)
- Transfer on Death Instrument

Client Support Services

- Social worker present in every regional office.
- They will develop community resource lists and assist clients.
- Two main goals:
  1. Increase client's engagement with the legal process
  2. Increase client's stability to create sustainable outcomes

Client Support Services

- Various levels of support provided
- Depends on the client's needs
- Assistance may look like:
  - Providing information about local resources
  - Helping a client complete forms or applications
  - Showing a client how to use Zoom
  - Attending court hearings with a client

Community Outreach

- Walk-in Community Office Hours
  - Attendees can speak with an on-site attorney (if found eligible for our services)
- Expungement & Sealing Clinics
  - All day events completing the initial steps of expunging and sealing records
- Educational Events & Workshops
  - In-person & virtual overviews of specific civil legal topics with general advice
- Resource Fairs & Local Events
  - Attend local events to provide information about our services to community members

Justice Bus!

- Coming Soon to a town near you!!

Questions?

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