



Legal Resources for Low-Income Elders

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs has collected information resources related to legal services for low-income elder consumers. It is available only for the state of Massachusetts. The following document contains information related to General Legal Service Resources, Title III-B Legal Service Providers, Court Service Centers and Training/Education Resources for Professionals.

General Legal Service Resources - General information regarding legal service assistance available to elders and their caregivers; primarily geared to low income elders.

Title III-B Legal Service Providers (LSP) - Efforts to target Older Americans Act Title III-B legal resources to elders 60+ in greatest economic and social need are critical given limited resources. Title III-B funding is to be targeted to certain case priorities including, income; health care; long-term care; nutrition; housing; utilities; protective services; defense of older persons against guardianship; abuse; neglect; and age discrimination.

Court Service Centers - Helps people navigate the court system. Centers are open whenever the courts are open, and are available to all court users without attorneys. All of the services are free, but there may be other fees associated with a case, such as filing fees.

Basic Public Benefits/Advocacy Training Series - Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) and Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc. (MCLE) present a series of trainings every year for legal, social, health services, and community advocates who assist low- and moderate-income individuals and families. Each session includes substantive materials and is led by expert advocates from legal services programs throughout the state.

General Legal Service Resources

Massachusetts Senior Legal Helpline

800-342-5297

The Helpline is open Monday through Friday 9AM-12PM.

The Helpline is a project of the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Boston that provides free legal information and referral services to Massachusetts residents who are 60 years old or older.

MassLegalHelp

www.masslegalhelp.org

MassLegalHelp.org's mission is to use the Web in new and creative ways to improve access to justice for low income and disadvantaged people. MassLegalHelp.org includes a legal resource finder elders can use to find any type of legal help.

Mass Legal Resources

www.masslegalservices.org

MassLegalServices offers resources and information about legal issues facing lower income Massachusetts residents to legal services advocates and social services professionals. Includes a web-based Legal Research Finder.

Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation

www.mlac.org

Legal services programs that offer legal advice and representation to low-income Massachusetts residents with civil legal problems involving issues such as domestic violence, housing, income maintenance, health care, elder issues, and more. With limited exceptions, clients must be elderly or have incomes below 125 percent of the federal poverty level.

Volunteer Lawyers Project

www.vlpnet.org

617-423-0648

The Volunteer Lawyers Project increases access to justice by delivering high quality pro bono civil legal services to under-represented clients in the Greater Boston Area.

MA Bar Association

www.massbar.org

Boston Office

617-338-0500

Western Mass. Office

413-731-5134

Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. Website includes "Public" resources, including a Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) and an Elder Law Education guide.

MA Bar Association: Dial-A-Lawyer**617-338-0610****877-686-0711**

The MBA sponsors a monthly Dial-A-Lawyer program and encourages members of the public to call hotline for free legal advice. Call on the first Wednesday of the month between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Boston Bar Association**www.bostonbar.org**

The Boston Bar Association (BBA) recognizes the importance of serving the larger community and providing legal services to those in need. The Lawyer Referral Service is the BBA's largest public service program and has a specific commitment to reaching historically underserved populations. The LRS Program connects callers in need of legal assistance with qualified help from private attorneys, legal services agencies, government offices, and community programs.

MassProBono**www.massprobono.org**

MassProBono is an online resource for lawyers, law students, paralegals, and other professionals who want to give their time to meet the legal needs of people of limited means.

**Homeowner Options for
Massachusetts Elders (H.O.M.E.)****www.elderhomeowners.org****978-970-0012****800-583-5337**

H.O.M.E. is dedicated to protecting the equity of low and moderate income elder homeowners. As an independent third party, H.O.M.E. does not charge fees to its clients nor receives consideration for any possible financial transactions.

The Attorney General's Elder Hotline**888-AG-ELDER****888-243-5337****TTY: 617-727-4765**

The Elder Hotline is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The hotline is staffed by senior volunteers to help you find answers to your questions, resolve disputes with businesses, and assist with other issues including: abuse and exploitation of elders; debt and debt collection practices; health insurance; home improvement; landlord, tenant, and housing issues; long-term care; identity theft and scams; retail disputes; and telemarketing.

MA Elder Abuse Hotline**(800) 922-2275**

A service provided by the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Elder Abuse Hotline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Title III-B Legal Service Providers

Contact Information

As required under the Older Americans Act section 307 (a)(2)(C), the Executive Office of Elder Affairs provides assurances that a minimum proportion of Title III-B Supportive Services funding received by each Area Agency on Aging (AAA) be expended for the delivery of priority services, including legal assistance. Legal services funded under Title III-B are intended to target elders in greatest economic and social need. The following material is intended to provide general information about Legal Service Providers that work in collaboration with the 22 AAAs in MA. The phone number, address, website and the AAAs that the LSP serve are provided. This information is primarily made available for the general public.

Greater Boston Legal Services	
Main Office	
197 Friend Street Boston, MA 02114	617-371-1234 800-323-3205 (toll-free) 617-371-1228 (TDD)
Cambridge/Somerville Office	
60 Gore Street, Suite 203 Cambridge, MA 02141	617-603-2700 617-494-1757 (TDD)
Website: https://www.gbbs.org/	
Serves the following Area Agencies on Aging: Boston Commission on Affairs of the Elderly; Minuteman Senior Services, Inc.; Mystic Valley Elderly Services, Inc.; Somerville-Cambridge Elder Service, Inc.; and South Shore Elder Services Inc.	

South Coastal Counties Legal Services	
Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts LLC	
231 Main St. Suite 201 Brockton, MA 02301	(508) 586-2110 1-800-244-8393
Fall River Office	
22 Bedford St. 1st Floor Fall River, MA 02720	(508) 676-6265 1-800-287-3777
Website: http://www.sccls.org/	
Serves the following Area Agencies on Aging: Bristol Elder Services; Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands, Inc.; Coastline Elderly Services, Inc.; and Old Colony Planning Council.	

Northeast Legal Aid	
Monday – Thursday: 9AM – 5PM, Fridays: 9AM-1PM	978-458-1465
Lawrence Office 50 Island Street Suite 203A Lawrence, Massachusetts 01840	
Lowell Office 35 John Street Suite 302 Lowell, Massachusetts 01852	
Lynn Office 181 Union Street Suite 201A Lynn, Massachusetts 01901	
Website: www.northeastlegalaid.org/	
Serves the following Area Agencies on Aging: Greater Lynn Senior Services, Inc.; Elder Services of Merrimack Valley, Inc.; North Shore Elder Services, Inc.; and Senior Care, Inc.	

Metrowest Legal Services	
63 Fountain Street, Suite 304 Framingham, MA 01702	508-620-1830 800-696-1501 TTY/TDD equipped Fax 508-620-2323
Website: http://www.mwlegal.org/	
Hours of operation Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm Our office is handicapped accessible and free parking is available. We are accessible to the Framingham-Worcester commuter rail line.	
Serves the following Area Agencies on Aging: Baypath Elder Services, Inc.; Health & Social Services Consortium, Inc. (HESSCO); and Springwell.	

Community Legal Aid	
MAIN OFFICE LOCATIONS	TTY/TDD 508-755-3260 855-CLA-LEGAL 855-252-5342
Northampton 20 Hampton Avenue, Northampton, MA 01060	Pittsfield 152 North Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201
Springfield One Monarch Place Springfield, MA 01144	Worcester 405 Main Street Worcester MA 01608
Website: https://www.communitylegal.org/	
SATELLITE OFFICE LOCATIONS *	
Fitchburg Holyoke North Adams	Greenfield Milford Southbridge
*For more information call the main phone numbers or visit their website.	
Serves the following Area Agencies on Aging: Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc.; Central Mass Agency on Aging, Inc.; Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc.; Highland Valley Elder Services, Inc.; LifePath; and WestMass Elder Care, Inc.	

Berkshire Center for Justice	
284 Main St., Suite 7 Great Barrington, MA 01230 Email: justice@berkshirecenterforjustice.org	Phone: 413-854-1955
Website: https://berkshirecenterforjustice.org/	
Serves the following Area Agency on Aging: Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc.	

COURT SERVICE CENTERS

The following material has been collected in order to provide information related to the court service centers in MA that provide services, schedules, phone numbers and locations of each courthouse in Massachusetts. It is intended to be used by the general public. Court Service Centers close their doors to the public at 1:00PM every Friday. If there is any emergency after that time please consult the clerk/register of that court center.

Court Service Centers***

Court Service Centers help people navigate the court system. Centers are open whenever the courts are open, and are available to all court users, with or without attorneys.

SERVICES

- Computers with access to online resources that are available on a first-come, first-served basis
- One-on-one help filling out court forms
- Information about court rules, procedures, and practices
- Court documents and written instructions
- Access to interpreter services
- Assistance with legal research
- Contact information for community resources, legal assistance programs, and social service agencies
- Some forms and self-help materials are available in multiple languages. If you don't speak English well, you have the right to an interpreter at no cost to you. Ask court staff for an interpreter and they'll provide one for you.

***Court Service Center staff can give legal information, but not legal advice. Legal information includes answering questions about how the court works and the different options available to you. The staff can't help decide what you should do or predict what will happen in a case. Court staff may give information to all parties to a case, and can't act as your attorney.

BOSTON

Edward W. Brooke Courthouse

Telephone: (617) 788-8000

Address: 24 New Chardon St, 2d Floor, Boston, MA 02114

Monday – Friday*:

8:30 am-1:00 pm, 2:00 pm-4:30 pm

*Friday closes doors to public at 1:00 pm

Public transportation:

Orange and Green line. Haymarket stop.

GREENFIELD Franklin County Courthouse	
Telephone: (413) 775-7400 Address: 43 Hope St., Greenfield, MA 01301	
Monday – Friday*: 8:30 am-1:00 pm, 2:00 pm-4:30 pm *Friday closes doors to public at 1:00 pm	
Public transportation: The court service center is accessible by public transportation through the Franklin Regional Transit Authority.	

LAWRENCE Fenton Judicial Center	
Telephone: (978) 687-7184 Address: 2 Appleton St., 2d Floor, Law Library, Lawrence, MA 01840	
Monday – Friday*: 8:30 am-1:00 pm, 2:00 pm-4:30 pm *Friday closes doors to public at 1:00 pm	
Public transportation: For public transportation information to the courthouse, visit the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority website or call (508) 588-1000. The Lawrence District Court is accessible by the Haverhill line of the MBTA. The closest station to the courthouse is the Lawrence Station stop, which is approximately 1/2 of a mile from the courthouse. Busses are also available through the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority.	

Brockton George N. Covett Courthouse	
Telephone: (508) 587-8000 Address : 215 Main St., 1st Floor, Brockton, MA 02301	
Monday – Friday*: 8:30 am-1:00 pm, 2:00 pm-4:30 pm *Friday closes doors to public at 1:00 pm	

Public transportation:

(Brockton continued)

The Brockton District Court is accessible by the Kingston/Plymouth and Middleborough/Lakeville lines of the MBTA. The closest stop to the courthouse is the Brockton Station, which is approximately 1/2 of a mile from the courthouse. The courthouse is also accessible using Bus Route 8 of the Brockton Area Transit.

Springfield

Hall of Justice

Telephone: (413) 735-6000

Address : 50 State St., 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01102

Monday – Friday*:

8:30 am-1:00 pm, 2:00 pm-4:30 pm

*Friday closes doors to public at 1:00 pm

Public transportation:

The court is accessible using the following routes of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority: Blue 6, Blue 7, Green 1, Green 2, Green 5 and Green 8.

Worcester

Trial Court Complex

Telephone: (508) 757-8350

Address : 225 Main St., 1st Floor, Worcester, MA 01608

Monday – Friday*:

8:30 am-1:00 pm, 2:00 pm-4:30 pm

*Friday closes doors to public at 1:00 pm

Public transportation:

The Worcester District Court is accessible using the Framingham/Worcester line of the MBTA. The closest stop to the courthouse is Worcester/Union Station which is about 1/2 a mile from the courthouse. The courthouse is also accessible through the Worcester Regional Transit Authority.

BASIC PUBLIC BENEFITS ADVOCACY TRAINING SERIES

The following chart presents available dates for legal training to professionals (legal services staff, non-lawyer advocates, social, health and community service providers, and any non-profit or community organization). The series is not intended for consumers.

The calendar indicates the dates, topics and specific time of each program. Information on registering follows the listing of training series. The location for all trainings is the MA Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) offices, 10 Winter Place, Boston, MA. Additional registration information is found below.

**BASIC PUBLIC BENEFITS
ADVOCACY TRAINING SERIES
2018-2019**

Assisting Families Experiencing Homelessness: Emergency Assistance Shelter and Benefits	- September 13, 2018 Thursday – 9:30-2:30
CORI: Basics of the NEW Criminal Justice Reform Law for Community Providers and Legal aid Advocates	- October 29, 2018 Monday – 9:30-2:30
SSI and SSDI Basics	- November 14, 2018 Wednesday – 9:30-4:00
Overview of the TAFDC Program Massachusetts' Cash Assistance Program for Families	- December 13, 2018 Thursday – 9:30-4:00
SNAP/Food Stamp 101 Advocacy	- January 16, 2019 Wednesday – 9:30-12:30
Utilities Advocacy for Low-income Households in Massachusetts	- January 16, 2019 Wednesday (p.m.) – 1:00-4:00
Tenants' Rights	- January 29, 2019 Tuesday – 9:30-3:30
Health Care Access Programs in Mass.	- February 12, 2019 Tuesday – 9:30-4:00
Income Maximization for the Working Poor	- February 27, 2019 Wednesday – 9:15-3:00
Unemployment Insurance: Helping Out-of-Work Clients Navigate the UI System <i>*Tuition for Non-legal Service Attorneys signing up for a Volunteer Lawyers Project's UI Case: \$25.</i>	- March 14, 2019 Thursday –1:00-4:30
Immigrants and Public Benefits	- March 28, 2019 Thursday – 9:30-4:00
State and Federal Veterans Benefits	- April 4, 2019 Thursday– 9:30-2:00
Elder Benefits Programs	- April 10, 2019 Wednesday – 9:30-4:00

Tuition for legal services staff, non-lawyer advocates, social, health and community service providers and any non-profit or community organizations: \$25 per person per session. If registering online, click on "non-lawyer advocate" which will allow you to pay \$25 for the session. * All others: \$95 per person.

TO REGISTER and for detailed information on each of these trainings, go to <https://www.mcle.org/main/mlri>. Registration must be done through MCLE (and not MLRI). Trainings take place at MCLE, 10 Winter Place, Boston.

**Please share with others who may be interested*