



Neighborhood Legal Services Association

WAYS TO HELP – REDUCED-FEE REFERRAL PROGRAMS – www.nlsa.us

About Reduced-Fee Referral Programs

NLSA’s Reduced-Fee Referral Programs present opportunities for attorneys to provide a public service by rendering legal services to persons who could not otherwise afford legal assistance. Reduced Fee Referral Programs vary by county.

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Our laws guarantee basic rights and protections for all of us – not just those who can afford legal counsel.

NLSA provides civil legal assistance to vulnerable and low-income individuals and families in our region who otherwise could not afford legal help. Yet, NLSA only has resources to help a fraction of those in need. Your volunteer support and financial assistance to NLSA helps our neighbors in crisis return to safe, productive lives.

About Reduced-Fee Referral Programs

Simply stated, the overwhelming demand for civil legal aid far exceeds NLSA's capacity to serve all of those in need. The Reduced-Fee Referral Program is a service to people who cannot afford to pay attorneys fees at rates which would ordinarily be charged and who cannot be represented by an NLSA attorney. It is designed to make opportunities available to attorneys to provide a public service by rendering legal services to low-income persons who cannot afford to pay market rate for legal services.

NLSA offers a Reduced-Fee Referral Program in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Lawrence counties. The availability of reduced fee referrals varies by county. For more information about NLSA's reduced fee referral program, please contact your local NLSA office:



"Thanks to NLSA, my family can actually have a life." – Brenda, NLSA client

Allegheny County

928 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3799

Phone: 412-255-6700 (Mon.-Fri. 9am–12pm
and 1pm–2:30pm)

Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 9am–5pm

Beaver County

Stone Point Landing, Suite 204A

500 Market St., Bridgewater, PA 15009

Phone: 724-378-0595 (Mon.–Fri. 9am–12pm
and 1pm–2:30pm)

Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8:30am–12pm
and 1:00pm–4:30pm

Butler County

Holly Pointe, Suite 301

220 South Main St., Butler, PA 16001-5973

Phone: 724-282-3888 (Mon.–Fri. 9am–12pm
and 1pm–2:30pm)

Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8:30am–12pm
and 1pm–4:30pm

Lawrence County

125 East North St., Suite 329 – Temple Building,
New Castle, PA 16101-3751

Phone: 724-658-2677 (Mon.–Fri. 9am–12pm
and 1pm – 2:30pm)

Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8:30am–12pm
and 1pm–4:30pm

Allegheny County



Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

\$25.00 for initial consultation. \$300.00 for representation of the client (and possibly spouse) in a basic Chapter 7 Bankruptcy plus \$60.00 per hour for representation in any adversary proceedings, paid as billed. The client must pay filing fees, court costs, appraisal fees, expert witness, fees, etc. as they arise. The filing fee is \$299.00. In some cases the attorney may be able to get court permission for installment payments of the filing fee for low-income debtors.

Chapter 13 Bankruptcy

\$25.00 for initial consultation. \$480.00 for representation of the client (and possibly spouse) in a basic Chapter 13 Bankruptcy for the first 8 hours of work. Representation thereafter is \$60.00 per hour for representation in any adversary proceedings, paid as billed. The client must pay filing fees, court costs, appraisal fees, expert witness, fees, etc. as they arise. The filing fee is \$274.00 and this fee cannot be waived.

Family Law

The fees are as follows: \$35.00 for the initial consultation and the hourly rate is \$70.00 per hour. No retainers will be charged except for representation at a custody trial, in which case the attorney agrees not to charge a retainer of more than \$280. The following flat rate for services apply:

- **Representation at support conference/hearing:** \$280.00
- **Representation at custody conciliations:** \$140.00
- **Representation at partial custody or custody contempt hearing:** \$280.00
- **Representation of either plaintiff or defendant in a no-fault divorce:** \$280.00 (Plus \$70.00 per hour for representation on ancillary issues such as custody, alimony, property settlement and/or attorney fees)
- **Representation at a custody trial:** \$70.00 per hour
- **Additional assistance**, if agreed to by attorney and Client, will be billed at an hourly rate: \$70.00 per hour

The client is responsible for paying any other costs and fees, such as any court costs not excused by the court, service costs, and fees for mediation, counseling, and evaluation.

Clients are to pay all fees in advance.

Attorneys interested in participating in Allegheny County's Reduced-Fee Referral Program, please contact Barbara Kern, NLSA Managing Attorney via email at kernb@nlsa.us or by phone at 412.586.6138.

Beaver County

Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

The fee for this service is \$735.00. In addition, the client must pay filing fees, court costs, appraisal fees, expert witness, fees, etc. as they arise. The filing fee is \$299.00. In some cases the attorney may be able to get court permission for installment payments of the filing fee for low income debtors.

Chapter 13 Bankruptcy

The fee for this service is \$735.00. In addition, the client must pay filing fees, court costs, appraisal fees, expert witness, fees, etc. as they arise. The filing fee is \$274.00 and this fee cannot be waived.

Family Law

The fees are as follows:

- **Adoption**
 - *Uncontested*: \$25.00 for initial interview, \$250.00 for first five hours and \$50.00/hour for each additional hour.
 - *Contested*: \$25.00 for initial interview, \$500.00 for first ten hours and \$50.00/hour thereafter.
- **Custody (plaintiff or defendant):** \$250.00
- **Divorce Plaintiffs:** \$150.00, plus \$40.00 for any ancillary issues
- **Divorce Defendants:** \$25.00 for initial interview, \$120.00 to enter appearance, \$40.00/hour thereafter.
- **Support conference:** \$25.00 for initial interview, \$75.00 to represent at conference.
- **Support Exceptions:** \$25.00 for initial interview, \$100.00 to represent at hearing.

The client is responsible for paying any other costs and fees, such as any court costs not excused by the court, service costs, and fees for mediation, counseling, and evaluation.

Clients are to pay all fees in advance.

Attorneys interested in participating in Beaver County's Reduced-Fee Referral Program, please contact Michelle DeBord, NLSA Managing Attorney via email at debordm@nlsa.us or by phone at 412.371.3901.



Butler County

Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

\$40.00 for a one-hour initial interview.
\$440.00 for representation of client (and possibly spouse) in a basic Chapter 7 Bankruptcy plus \$40.00 per hour for representation in any adversary proceedings. The client must pay court costs.

Chapter 13 Bankruptcy

\$40.00 for a one-hour initial interview.
\$520.00 for representation of the client (and possibly spouse) in a basic Chapter 13 Bankruptcy plus \$40.00 per hour for representation in any adversary proceedings. The client is required to pay court costs.

Custody

\$40.00 for a one-hour initial interview. \$120 for three hours of representation at pre-hearing contempt, or \$120 for representation at a custody conference, or \$440 for eleven hours for preparation and representation at custody trial. Any work over the eleven hours is billed at \$40.00 per hour. \$40 per hour for any other custody representation including all special relief issues.

Domestic Relations

One office visit and representation at a support conference or modification hearing: \$50.00 flat fee. One office visit and representation at support exceptions hearing or contempt hearing: \$75.00 flat fee.

Divorce

- **Divorce with no ancillary issues:** \$40.00 for a one-hour initial interview and \$120.00 for representation of a plaintiff in a divorce action with no ancillary issues.
- **Divorce with ancillary issues:** \$40.00 for a one-hour initial interview and \$120.00 for representation of a plaintiff in a divorce action and \$200.00 for five hours of representation regarding ancillary issues. Any work over five hours is billed at \$40.00 per hour.
- **Divorce Defendant:** \$40.00 for a one-hour initial interview. If additional representation is needed, the client pays up front \$200.00 towards an hourly rate of \$40.00 (five hours of work). Any work over five hours is billed at \$40.00 per hour.

Power of Attorney, Living Will or a Simple, Self-Proved Will

\$35.00 flat fee for a Power of Attorney; \$25.00 flat fee for a Living Will; \$75.00 flat fee for a simple, self-proved will; or \$100.00 flat fee for all three.

Clients are to pay all fees in advance.

Attorneys interested in participating in Butler County's Reduced-Fee Referral Program, please contact Geraldine E. Redmond, the office manager of the Butler County Office, at 724.282.3888 or stop by NLSA's Butler Office.

Lawrence County

Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

\$20.00 paid in advance for initial consultation. \$400.00 paid in advance for representing the debtor (and perhaps a spouse) in a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, plus court costs and \$40.00 per hour as billed for adversarial actions.

Advice Only

\$20.00 for up to one-half hour of advice in the following categories:

- Divorce, custody, support and PFA issues
- Landlord/tenant and real estate law
- Debtor/ creditor, bankruptcy and consumer law
- Estates, guardianships and adoptions
- Civil litigation, personal injury and contract disputes
- Social Security, workers compensation, unemployment compensation, pensions, and insurance issues
- Employment issues

Representation at Support Conference, Exceptions Hearing or Contempt Hearing

Flat fee of \$100.00.

District Justice Civil or Landlord/Tenant Hearing

Flat fee of \$80.00.

Custody

\$20.00 for advice only; \$20.00 for assistance in completion of pro se forms (provided by Neighborhood Legal Services Association) to obtain a custody conference; \$40.00 for preparation of an Application for Special Relief; \$120.00 retainer for the first three hours, plus \$40.00 per hour thereafter, for a limited appearance at a custody conference (or for a limited appearance regarding an Application for Special Relief); \$400.00 retainer for the first ten hours, plus \$40.00 per hour thereafter, for trial preparation, and representation at, a custody trial. NLSA will provide with each client referral with a form entitled, Praeceptum for Entry of Limited Appearance.

Divorce

- **Divorce Plaintiff:** \$20.00 for initial consultation; plus \$120.00 retainer for representation in a divorce action for the first three hours; plus \$40.00 per hour for ancillary issues and for making special arrangements to serve the Defendant.
- **Divorce Defendant:** \$20.00 for initial consultation; plus \$120.00 retainer for first three hours of defending a divorce action; plus \$40.00 per hour thereafter.

Clients are to pay all fees in advance.

Attorneys interested in participating in Lawrence County's Reduced-Fee Referral Program, please contact Michelle DeBord, the managing attorney of the Lawrence County Office, at 724.658.2677 or via email at debordm@nlsa.us.



“I can still be self-sufficient, thanks to NLSA.” – Vince, NLSA client

Sixty-year-old Vince, an SSI recipient who survives on \$650 per month, suffers from the chronic pain of fibromyalgia. He had been enrolled in the Access Transportation Program (ATP), a service of discounted van rides that physically and financially enabled him to see his doctor, do his shopping, and take care of other activities without depending on others. Due to financial constraints, ATP changed its eligibility requirements and Vince was advised to use public transportation. NLSA represented Vince at a hearing, presenting a letter from his physician stating that access to the transit van was medically necessary to help Vince combat the physical effects of his illness. The hearing officer agreed and Vince’s eligibility – and independence – were restored.



Neighborhood Legal Services Association

928 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

www.nlsa.us | (866) 761-6572



The official registration and financial information of Neighborhood Legal Services Association may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Federal regulations applying to NLSA require that we notify all donors that no funds can be expended by NLSA for any activity prohibited under P.L.104-134 or otherwise prohibited by 45 C.F.R. § 1600 et seq.