



LEGAL AID
OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

Referring people to LAWM

A guide for non-profit & government staff

Kinds of Cases we Handle

Family Law

- Divorce: for survivors of domestic violence (in special circumstances, divorce to ensure income maintenance and equitable property division)
- Defense of custody for natural/legal custodial parents within divorce, custody, support, and paternity cases
- Defense of natural/legal parents' rights in minor guardianship cases
- Personal Protection Orders (PPOs): defending against motions to terminate PPOs

Housing

- Eviction defense
- Public and subsidized housing (including Section 8 vouchers): representing clients who face denials, terminations, or loss of vouchers
- Challenging mortgage foreclosures and predatory mortgage lending and servicing practices
- Challenging land contract forfeitures and option contracts
- Mobile home park litigation
- Property tax foreclosure defense
- Challenging unfair housing practices

Public Benefits

- Representation in many SSI appeals
- Representation in administrative hearings/appeals regarding denial or loss of cash assistance, food assistance, child daycare assistance, Medicaid/CHIP assistance, home health benefits, and unemployment benefits (including fraud allegations)

Consumer & Tax Matters

- Defense of debt collection actions
- Bankruptcy for debtors with wages being garnished
- Litigation regarding consumer purchases, student loans, debt assignments, utilities and collection tactics
- Tax controversies with the IRS

Individual Rights

- Criminal record expungements
- Sex offender registry removal petitions
- Child abuse registry removal hearings

See over for eligibility and contact info →

Who is Eligible for Our Help?

Note: these are our general rules, but there are many exceptions which can permit us to help people. **When in doubt, direct people to call us.**

Income:

- Generally we can help some people with a household income up to 200% of the federal poverty level
- BUT sometimes we are able to help people with a higher household income

Assets:

- Generally, clients must have fewer than \$15,000 in assets, but this limit does not count assets like homes and retirement accounts. There are other exceptions, too.

Restrictions:

- We are sometimes unable to help people who do not have US citizenship or Lawful Permanent Resident status, due to funding restrictions. But in certain cases we waive this restriction to help domestic violence survivors. When in doubt, the person should call us.
- Due to federal funding rules we cannot represent people who are incarcerated

Not sure if someone is eligible? Direct them to call us.

Contacting Us

Grand Rapids - (616) 774-0672

(Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo,
& Osceola Counties)
25 Division South, Suite 300
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Kalamazoo - (269) 344-8113

(Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, & Van Buren Counties)
141 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 400
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Muskegon - (231) 726-4887

(Mason, Muskegon, & Oceana Counties)
450 Morris Ave., Suite 104
Muskegon, MI 49440

Holland - (616) 394-1380

(Allegan & Ottawa Counties)
115 Clover Ave, Suite 101
Holland, MI 49423

St Joseph - (269) 983-6363

(Berrien County)
901 Port St.
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Our Offices & Counties

Counties served:

-  Grand Rapids Office
-  Muskegon Office
-  Holland Office
-  Kalamazoo Office
-  St Joseph Office



Other Resources:

Michigan Legal Help <https://michiganlegalhelp.org>