

Eligible Clients
May Receive Free Legal Aid
In the Following Cases:

Public Benefits

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Welfare, TANF, GA
Self-Sufficiency & Training
Special Allowances

Housing Cases

Tenant Evictions
Private Landlord-Tenant Disputes
Public and Subsidized Housing

Family Law

Protection From Abuse (Petitioners Only)
Child Custody Defense
Custody Contempt
Visitation
Child Abduction
Name Change

Employment & Education

Unemployment Compensation
Expungements & Pardons
School Expulsions
Special Education Hearings

Consumer Law

Bankruptcy
Mortgage Foreclosure
Creditor Harassment

Give Us a Call!

Apply For Services Call

(Toll Free) 1-800-665-6957

(In Erie) 452-6957

WWW.NWLS.org

NWLS Office Locations

Erie

1001 State Street - Suite 700

Bradford

100 Main Street

Farrell

1031 Roemer Blvd.

Franklin

1243 Liberty Street - Suite 420

Meadville

231 Chestnut Street - 4th Floor

Warren

213 Third Ave., West - Suite 407

Updated September 2009



**Free Legal Aid
In
Civil Cases**

**Serving Low-income Residents
Of the Following Counties**

- **Cameron**
- **Crawford**
- **Elk**
- **Erie**
- **Forest**
- **McKean**
- **Mercer**
- **Potter**
- **Venango**
- **Warren**

www.nwls.org

If you have a civil legal problem, call to see if you qualify for our services. Our intake screeners will determine whether you are eligible for our FREE service.

Who We Are . . .

Since 1969, Northwestern Legal Services has provided free legal aid in civil cases to low-income clients in 10 counties in northwestern Pennsylvania: Cameron, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, and Warren Counties.

We are a private non-profit organization that receives funding from federal, state and local agencies. We also administer grants for specialized legal services and community outreach.

Over half of the NWLS staff is composed of attorneys and paralegals who provide direct representation and counsel, along with telephone advice and brief service, to our clients.

Our board of directors is composed of private attorneys and client-eligible individuals from counties in our service regions. The board takes an active role in setting priorities for the types of cases we accept, and in helping to raise funds for our mission.

All of our services are free-of-charge to our clients.

Our Mission

Northwestern Legal Services assists low-income individuals and families by guiding them through the legal system using advocacy and education to obtain justice with

Getting Help . . .

1.) All applicants can request service by telephoning our central intake unit. When you call the unit, an intake screener will ask questions about your income and assets, and the type of legal problem you are facing.



NWLS Central Intake Unit
Mon. - Fri.
9 a.m - 4 p.m.

Simply Call
(Toll Free) 1-800-665-6957
(in Erie) 452-6957

2.) If you meet all of our eligibility guidelines, and we handle the kind of legal problem you are having, you will receive free legal service.

3.) Depending on the type of legal problem, you may receive telephone advice from an attorney, qualify for a clinic class, or be scheduled to meet with a NWLS law worker at an office located nearest to you. NWLS also administers *pro bono* programs in several counties which connect private attorneys with eligible clients - without any cost to you.

Not Eligible? If you are found ineligible, we will attempt to refer you to a local social service agency or county assistance office that may be able to assist you.

Other Services We Provide . . .

Community Outreach

Need a speaker? A NWLS law worker will speak at your organization or gathering. Simply call one of our offices near you (listings on back). NWLS also participates in various community events as time and staff availability permits.

Internet Resources



www.nwls.org

Wide range of civil legal information:

- Brochures
- Self-help documents
- Audio content
- Video content
- Links to helpful resources

“Access to Justice” Newsletter & TV

NWLS publishes a quarterly newsletter, “Access to Justice,” that contains information on civil legal topics for the low-income community, as well as news about our organization. You can receive a copy of the publication by calling (814) 452-6949 Ext. 110, or emailing vbrocki@nwls.org.

NWLS also produces TV shows, airing on City of Erie Community Access, Cablevision Channel 2. A schedule of upcoming shows is available at www.cattv-erie.org.