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Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society

Seeking Justice for All Virginians Since 1972

[HOME](#)
[ABOUT LEGAL AID](#)
[GET HELP](#)
[PRACTICE AREAS](#)
[GIVE HELP](#)
[LATEST NEWS](#)
[EMPLOYMENT](#)
[CONTACT](#)

Four out of five Americans experience economic hardship at some point in their lives.
You, or someone you know, has been helped by a legal aid lawyer or will need that help in future.

The owner of a successful conference business in Central Virginia once lived in her car.

The skilled manager of a victim/witness program was herself abused.

Help us help the next one; it could be **someone you wouldn't expect.**

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About Us

Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society (SVLAS) is a private, non-profit law firm. We provide free civil legal services to low-income families in 17 counties and four small cities in southwestern Virginia.

For more than four decades, SVLAS and its predecessor programs have helped families across our region who face serious legal problems and have nowhere else to turn. Their concerns involve basic needs. Safety. Health. Shelter. Food. Education. Employment.

Approximately 20% of Americans are eligible for free civil legal aid, and by age 60 nearly four times that number - four in five people - will experience some kind of economic hardship. Relying on a government program that provides assistance for those in need. Living at least a year in poverty or close to it.

Those at highest risk include our most vulnerable populations - domestic violence victims and their children, seniors, the disabled, and veterans.

Civil legal aid programs nationwide provide direct legal representation, advice and counseling, community education and self-help and technology tools that can help low-income and middle-class families understand their legal options.

All of these resources can both improve outcomes in the justice system and help problems get resolved without going to court. When litigation is unavoidable, they can help cases move through the courts more effectively and more efficiently - which saves time and money for all.

How We Can Help

Our attorneys and paralegals can:

- talk with you in person or over the telephone;
- help you negotiate with a landlord, employer, creditor, or agency worker; or
- represent you in court or at administrative hearings.

We do not charge for our services but you must:

- be income-eligible (most families below 200% poverty level are eligible); AND
- live in Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Montgomery, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, or Wythe Counties OR
- live in the cities of Bristol, Galax, Norton or Radford.

Most families living below 200% of poverty level are eligible. Your bills, debts, and any savings are also considered. If you are not sure if you are eligible, please apply.

If you are not eligible, click here to find **Self-Help Resources** for legal problems in Virginia or click here to **find an attorney**.

If you live in a different area in Virginia, click here to find the nearest **civil legal aid program in Virginia**. If you live in another state, click here to find the nearest **civil legal aid program in a state other than Virginia**.

How You Can Help

Financial contributions or in-kind gifts are an increasingly important source of Legal

HOW TO APPLY

Apply By Phone Any Weekday
from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1-888-201-2772

OR

To apply online
[click here!](#)

Before you call:
GATHER ALL INFORMATION
court/hearing dates, eviction notices, summons letters, protective orders, etc.
Also, income for ALL household members.

WE WILL NEED TO KNOW

where you live (county and state);
type of problem you are having (divorce, custody, garnishment, loss of benefits, etc.);
where you are having the problem (county and state);
your full name;
full name of the person, company or agency you are having the problem with;
number of adults (age 18+) and children living in the home;
gross income (before deductions) of each member of the household;
assets, such as checking or savings accounts, IRAs, stocks, bonds, number of vehicles;
mailing address (where you get your mail),
physical address (where you live)

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Aid support nationwide, but you can also help by giving of your time and talents. Volunteer lawyers can reduce client wait times or serve those otherwise turned away. Non-legal volunteer opportunities are also available.

through the app settings
window or contact us
through
wix@socialstream.io for
assistance.

Name

VOLUNTEER NOW

Country Code Phone

+1

Email

70% of litigants have to represent themselves in court. They cannot afford to hire a lawyer, even when faced with such life-altering events as the potential loss of a child, a home, healthcare, or a job.

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News & Events



VOCA Grant to Help Southwest Virginia Victims Rebuild Their Lives After Crime

A new grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) will help victims of crime rebuild their lives in the aftermath. The grant provides almost \$360,000 in new federal funds for three attorneys and an intake specialist to provide direct service to Southwest Virginia victims. [read more](#)