



Legal Assistance Resources for Persons with Limited Financial Means

Pro bono legal information and advice is available to persons 55 and older through the USD Senior Legal Helpline, (800)747.1895; mmyers@usd.edu.

Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors

Provides free legal advice over the telephone for Michigan residents age 60+. The Legal Hotline is a program of Elder Law of Michigan, Inc., a nonprofit organization, which allows Michigan residents age 60 and older to ask questions of experienced elder law attorneys over the telephone. The Legal Hotline's advice and information empowers senior citizens to prevent and resolve their legal problems. Our mission is to promote and protect the rights of seniors through information, advocacy and legal advice. We help seniors and their authorized representatives on issues relating to:

- Wills and probate
- Guardianship, alternatives to guardianship
- Family Law
- Consumer Protection
- Pension issues
- Medicaid/Medicare
- Social Security
- Housing
- Insurance
- Debt/Bankruptcy
- Other

When a call comes in, the receptionist will ask for a brief description of the problem or question. Additionally, their federal funding source requires that they ask for the senior's date of birth, income and other basic information. All information provided to the Hotline remains confidential.

If their attorneys are on the telephone helping other seniors, an appointment will be made to return the call.

- The Hotline provides free legal advice, information, and referrals over the telephone
- Service is limited to callers age 60+ (*except for questions on Kinship Care and Pensions*)
- Toll-free number is 1-800-347-5297
- Hours are 9 am to 5 pm Monday - Friday , closed 12-1 PM
- Services are free of charge, but donations are welcome
- The Legal Hotline does not provide legal representation.

- The Legal Hotline was founded in 1990
- For questions on services call 517-372-5959

See also website: www.legalhotlineonline.org

Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc.

Private nonprofit organization provides legal representation at no charge on particular issues (generally litigation issues) or can refer client to legal assistance. Person in need of legal assistance should call 1-800-288-5923 (Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 5:00) for further information.

AARP Legal Resources

The AARP Legal Services Network (LSN) provides easy access to attorneys who reduce their fees for AARP members. LSN attorneys have met strict standards of experience and customer service and are in good standing with the bar. There are more than 1,000 LSN attorneys across the country ready to help with legal concerns.

LSN attorneys offer the following benefits to AARP members:

- Free initial consultation, up to 30 minutes, in person or over the phone.
- Simple wills for \$75 single/\$100 couple with similar distribution plans. Please note: simple wills generally leave everything to a spouse or grown children and contain no specific bequests.
- Powers of attorney for \$35 each document per person.
- 20% off the attorneys' usual hourly rates for all other legal services.

Many LSN attorneys conduct Legal Checkup seminars to help persons assess their legal health. Obtain information at the AARP website: www.aarp.org

National toll-free number: 1-800-424-3410 (Monday – Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. ET). Michigan office: (517) 482-2772

MISeniors.net

The MISeniors.net website www.miseniors.net has a Legal Assistance Services locator. See attached page.

State Bar of Michigan

The State Bar of Michigan Pro Bono Involvement Committee has prepared a Pro Bono Reference Manual intended to be a handbook for local groups and individual attorneys interested

in pro bono. Call 800-968-1442 for more information about obtaining a copy of the 2003 edition. Information on the manual can also be found on the website www.michbar.org Click the Access to Justice button and then click on Legal Aid, Legal Services, and Dispute Resolution Programs. The State Bar of Michigan also has a 2003 brochure on Law School-Based Legal Services.

Sixty Plus Clinic of Cooley Law School

Will help seniors prepare will at no charge. (517) 334-5760
<http://www.cooley.edu/clinics/intro60.htm>

Alzheimer's Association Chapters, Area Agencies on Aging, Huntington's Disease Society of America- Michigan Chapter and Michigan Parkinson Foundation

May know of additional local legal assistance resources.