

Legal Aid Society

What is the Legal Aid Society?

A not-for-profit corporation founded in 1958 by the Evansville Bar Association to provide, at no cost to the client, legal advice and representation to qualifying low income residents of Vanderburgh County in select civil matters. LAS is funded by the City of Evansville, County of Vanderburgh, United Way of Southwestern Indiana Inc., and the Indiana Civil Legal Aid Fund. LAS is governed by a Board of Directors. Six board members are attorneys appointed by the Evansville Bar Association, three members are non-attorneys appointed by the Mayor, and three members are non-attorneys appointed by the County Commissioners.

Who may be eligible for **services?**

- Applicants living in Vanderburgh County,
- with cases in Vanderburgh County,
- whose households meet the required financial guidelines,
- whose representation does not cause a conflict of interest,
- whose cases are of a type handled by the office, and
- who meet the legal, technical, and residency requirements.

How does an applicant contact the Legal Aid Society?

LAS is located in room 105 of the Administration Building in the Civic Center. The telephone number is 812-435-5173. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Messages can be left on the answering machine at all times. LAS's fax number is 435-5220. LAS's e-mail address is legalaid@vanderburgh.gov.org. The Vanderburgh County holiday schedule is observed.

How does an applicant ask the Legal Aid Society for help?

Please call between 8:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday *or* visit the office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. during any work day to complete an application for services. It is helpful to have court papers and any court dates available. The applicant must fully and honestly state the total income of every person in the household. The applicant should call as soon as the problem arises. If the applicant waits too long to contact LAS, the attorneys may not be able to schedule an appointment or represent the applicant in court and important legal time limits may expire. Once an application is completed, the applicant may call back on the following work day between 8:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to check if the application was accepted. If the application has been accepted, an appointment will be made for the applicant to meet with a licensed attorney. Please bring all court papers, court dates, receipts, pictures, documents, contracts, complete names and addresses of witnesses, and all related information to the appointment. Applications are not taken by e-mail.

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Services Provided by Legal Aid

The Legal Aid Society is a not-for-profit law firm. Legal Aid provides free, civil legal advice and representation to eligible residents of Vanderburgh County, Indiana.

What kind of cases may the Legal Aid Society accept?

- Adoptions (limited)
- Appeals of benefit termination
- Defense of paternity
- Defense of nonsupport
- Defense in small claims actions and suits for damages
- Disputes regarding custody
- Disputes regarding visitation
- Dissolution of marriage
- Evictions, landlord/tenant and housing matters
- Expungements
- Guardianships
- Information for contempt
- Petitions to modify
- Other cases at the discretion of the Director

What kind of cases does the Legal Aid Society reject?

- Annulments and legal separations
- Appeals
- Bankruptcies
- Cases a lawyer will take without prepayment, such as personal injury cases, Social Security cases and worker compensation cases
- Children in Need of Services cases
- Collection of support and establishment of paternity
- Criminal matters
- Matters in which the Court will appoint an attorney
- Name changes (other than in paternity or divorce)
- Proceedings supplemental
- Protective orders (standing alone)
- Real estate matters
- Suits against the City of Evansville, County of Vanderburgh, or United Way and its agencies
- Tax matters
- Termination of parental rights
- Wills or estates
- Other cases at the discretion of the Director