

Legal Services for Seniors

The Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York contracts with the Broome County Office for Aging to provide no cost legal services for citizens of Broome County over the age of 60. The funding for these services is provided through the New York State Office of Aging, the Administration for Community Living, and the Broome County Office for Aging through the Older Americans Act.

Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York

105 Court Street,
3rd Floor
Binghamton,
New York
13901

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
9 AM – 5 PM
Phone:
607-231-5900
Fax:
607-724-7211

FOR AN APPOINTMENT

CALL THE HELPLINE

Monday-Friday
9 AM-3 PM
1-877-777-6152

WHAT WE DO IN PERSON

Simple Wills: We talk with seniors about their finances, offer advice as to what options they have, to protect their assets and, where applicable, help create a will. A will ensures that their estate goes to whom they want and will be executed by whom they choose. If an estate is large or complicated, we may suggest a consultation with a private attorney who does estate planning.

Powers of Attorney: Too often seniors do not realize the importance of preparing this document. A Power of Attorney authorizes another person, such as a trusted friend or relative, to act on your behalf in your affairs. It is a convenient method to allow someone to handle your daily living matters if you are absent or infirm. Seniors may find themselves hospitalized or in rehabilitation for extended periods of time. Your appointed power of attorney can ensure that your life can continue as you know it and when you are ready to return home everything will be as you left it. There are 15 different powers covering such diverse areas as insurance, taxes, and pensions. A senior can name as many persons as they wish to be their power of attorney.

Health Care Proxy/Living Will: Anyone, regardless of age, should prepare a Health Care Proxy. This document allows you to designate another person, such as a trusted friend or relative, to make the health care decisions you would make if you were rendered incapable of making your own wishes known. A Living Will indicates in writing what types of medical treatment you would want and gives your health care proxy added support in making what are often difficult decisions. There are no judges or lawyers or courts involved in this document.

Simple Real Estate: We talk with seniors about their real property, offer advice as to how they can protect their interests, and where appropriate, do simple property transfers between relatives.

WHO OUR HELPLINE CAN ASSIST

Consumer Matters: Older adults often run up credit card debt as a result of medical related expenses. Older adults are usually embarrassed and overwhelmed by their situation and do not know what steps to take to handle their debt. We are available to talk with you and explain what your rights as a debtor are. We will discuss bankruptcy to determine how the expense and effort compares to the benefit. We can help put your mind at ease and arm you with ways to cope with creditors.



Income Maintenance Matters: We assist seniors with problems that may arise with Social Security, such as overpayments. We also help seniors with problems pertaining to food stamps or Medicaid or other public benefits.

WHAT WE DO NOT DO

Real property conveyances; probate or administration of estates; suing creditors, medical providers, or anyone else on your behalf; criminal cases or traffic tickets. We also do not advise anyone other than the actual client concerning any matters.

WHERE WE DO IT

- * For services which require that an attorney draft a document such as a simple will, power of attorney, health care proxy/living will or simple real estate matters, we provide legal aid in our office located at 105 Court Street, 3rd Floor, Binghamton, N.Y. 13901. *Call for an appointment Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 AM and 3 PM at 1-877-777-6152.*
- * Can also apply online through the website <https://www.lasmny.org/>
- * We also do outreach to Senior Centers including, Broome West in Endwell (607-785-1777), Johnson City (607-797-1149), First Ward in Binghamton (607-797-2307), Eastern Broome in Harpursville (607-693-2069), and Northern Broome in Whitney Point (607-692-3405). *Please call these centers to schedule an appointment.*
- * Home visits are possible if you are completely homebound or residing in a nursing home or hospital and no good alternative is available. We also visit senior housing units to give talks or meet with residents.

If you belong to a group or organization that would like an Attorney to speak on the issues we handle, please call the office.

WHAT IT COSTS

There are no fees for the services we provide. Voluntary contributions are accepted and appreciated. All contributions are used to provide to expand the availability of legal services to older adults. No one will be denied service due to their inability or unwillingness to contribute. Legal Services for Seniors are funded by the Administration for Community Living, NYS Office for Aging and Broome County.