

## Profile

**I. Free Legal Service** may be obtained in any court of law up to the Supreme Court and in any Tribunal, Revenue Court as well as departments of Government and other bodies discharging quasi-judicial functions. The legal service is available in all civil, criminal, revenue and administrative matters.

Free legal service can be given in all, or any one, or more, of the following modes, namely: -

- (1) By payment of court fee, process fee, expenses of witnesses, preparation of the paper book, lawyer's fee and all other charges payable or incurred in connection with any legal proceedings;
- (2) Through representation by a legal practitioner in legal proceedings;
- (3) By supplying certified copies of judgments, orders, notes or evidence and other documents in legal proceedings;
- (4) By preparation of appeal paper book, including printing, typing and translation of documents; and
- (5) By drafting of legal documents.

**II. Application for obtaining free legal service/aid** can be made to the following authorities: -

- (1) **If the case is in the Supreme Court:** - To the Member Secretary, National Legal Services Authority, 12/11, Jamnagar House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-110011.

(E-mail: [nalsa1987\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:nalsa1987(at)gmail(dot)com)) OR

To the Secretary, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, 109, Lawyers' Chambers, Post Office Wing, Supreme Court Compound, New Delhi-110001.

**NOTE:** - It may be noted that those persons whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 1,25,000/- can also avail legal service in the Supreme Court of India on payment of a nominal fee and other charges. If any person falls in this category he may contact the following:-

The Secretary,  
Supreme Court Middle Income  
Group  
Legal Aid Committee,  
109, Lawyers' Chambers,  
Post Office Wing,  
Supreme Court Compound,  
New Delhi-110001.

- (2) If the case is in the High Court: - To the Member Secretary, Haryana State Legal Services Authority, II<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New Block of Old District Court Complex, Sector-17, Chandigarh-160017.

Tele/Fax: 0172-2770055

**Email :** hslsa(at)hry[dot]nic[dot]in  
hslsa.haryana(at)gmail[dot]com

OR

The Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, Punjab and Haryana  
High Court, Chandigarh-160001.

(E-mail - 'highcourtchd(at)ndianjudiciary[dot]gov[dot]in')

**(C) If the case is at the District Level:-**

- (1) To the District and Sessions Judge-Cum-Chairman of the concerned District Legal Services Authority.

**NOTE** :- If there is no District and Sessions Judge posted at the seat of headquarter of a district (as distinguished from a sessions division), in such eventuality the application for obtaining free legal service/aid can be made to the Senior Most Additional District & Sessions Judge/Senior Most Judicial Officer (as the case may be)-cum-Chairman of the concerned District Legal Services Authority.

OR

- (2) To the Chief Judicial Magistrate-Cum-Secretary of the concerned District Legal Services Authority.

- (d) **If the case is at the Sub-Divisional Level:** - To the Senior Most Civil Judge-Cum-Chairman of the Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee.

## ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR FREE LEGAL SERVICES

As per section 12 of the Act of 1987 read with Rule 19 of the HALSA Rules of 1996, the following categories of persons are entitled to free legal services:

- 11 Any citizen of India belonging to general category whose annual income from all sources
  1. does not exceed Rs. 1,50,000/- (if the matter is at the Sub-Divisional level, District level or in High Court) and does not exceed Rs. 1,25,000/- (if the matter is in the Supreme Court of India).
  - 2 Members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or Backward Classes\*.
  - 3 Victims of trafficking in human beings, or 'begar' (forced labour) as is referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution.
  - 4 Women.
  - 5 .To a child, i.e. person who has not attained the age of 18 years or if he is under the guardianship under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 the age of 21 years;
  6. To a person with disability as defined in clause (i) of Section 2 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (1) of 1996);
  7. To a person, under circumstances of undeserved want such as being victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster;

- or
- 8 To an industrial workman; or
  - 9 To a person in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of Section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, or in a "children's home, observation home, shelter home and special home within the meaning of clauses (e), (o), (u) and (v) respectively of section 2 of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.
  - 10 To a person in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (q) of Section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or
  - 11 In a test case, the decision of which is likely to effect cases of numerous other persons belonging to the poor and weaker sections of the society; or
  12. To a person, in a special case, which for reasons to be recorded in writing is considered otherwise deserving of legal service where the means test is not satisfied; or
  13. To a person in the case where the High Court or the Supreme Court provides legal service under any order in that case legal service would be deemed to have been provided by the Authority/Committee in relaxation of all the conditions laid down in this rule; or
  14. To a person in case of public interest litigation
  15. To an ex-serviceman, and the families of such persons who have died in action; or
  16. To riot victims, and the families of such persons as well as terrorist victims and families of such persons; or
  - 11 To freedom fighters
  17. Transgender people
  18. Senior Citizen that is person who is citizen of India and has attained the age of 60 years or above

BESIDES THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, free legal services can also be provided in the under mentioned situations:-

- (i In a test case, the decision of which is likely to effect cases numerous other persons
- 1) belonging to the poor and weaker sections of the society; or
- (i To a person in a special case, who, for reasons to be recorded in writing, is
- 1) considered otherwise deserving of legal service where the means test is not satisfied;

23(4) of HALSA Rules of 1996, no legal service can be granted, or continued after the legal service has been granted, if the Authority/Committee is satisfied that:

- a The applicant has knowingly made false statement or furnished false information as
  1. regards his means or place or residence; or
- b In proceedings (other than the one relating to criminal prosecution ) where there is
  1. no prima facie case to institute, or as the case may be, to defend the proceedings; or
- <sup>c</sup> The application is frivolous and fictitious; or
- d The applicant is not entitled to the same under Rule 19 of the HALSA Rules of 1996
  1. or any other provision of the rule; or
- e Having regard to all the circumstances of the case, it is otherwise not reasonable to
  1. grant it.

## MODES OF PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES

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**Email :** hslsa(at)hry[dot]nic[dot]in  
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OR

- (2) To the Chief Judicial Magistrate-Cum-Secretary of the concerned District Legal Services Authority.
- (d) **If the case is at the Sub-Divisional Level:** - To the Senior Most Civil Judge-Cum-Chairman of the Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee.

## Contact Persons:

Ms.Ritu Tagore Learned District and Sessions Judge Cum Chairman,Distt .Legal Service Authority Panchkula Office Tele No.01722565607	Ms.Nidhi Bansal CJM-cum-Secretary DLSA Panchkula Office Tele No. : 01722586999
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Link to the Website of the State Legal Service Authority : <http://hslsa.nic.in>