

Who is Entitled to Free Legal Services

The sections of the society as enlisted under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act are entitled for free legal services, they are :

- (a) A member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;
 - (b) A victim of trafficking in human beings or begar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution;
 - (c) A woman or a child;
 - (d) A mentally ill or otherwise disabled person;
 - (e) A person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or
 - (f) An industrial workman; or
 - (g) In custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of Section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956(104 of 1956); or in a juvenile home within the meaning of clause(j) of Section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 (53 of 1986); or in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of Section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987(14 of 1987);or
 - (h) In receipt of annual income less than rupees nine thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than rupees twelve thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.
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Nature of Free Legal Services

Free legal services entail the provision of free legal aid in civil and criminal matters for those poor and marginalized people who cannot afford the services of a lawyer for the conduct of a case or a legal proceeding in any court, tribunal or before an authority.

Provision of free legal aid may include:

- a. Representation by an Advocate in legal proceedings.
- b. Preparation of pleadings, memo of appeal, paper book including printing and translation of documents in legal proceedings;
- c. Drafting of legal documents, special leave petition etc.
- d. Rendering of any service in the conduct of any case or other legal proceeding before any court or other Authority or tribunal and;
- e. Giving of advice on any legal matter.

Free Legal Services also include provision of aid and advice to the beneficiaries to access the benefits under the welfare statutes and schemes framed by the Central Government or the State Government and to ensure access to justice in any other manner.

How to Apply

A person in need of free legal services can approach the concerned authority or committee through an application which could either be made by sending in written form, or by filling up the forms prepared by the said authorities stating in brief the reason for seeking legal aid or can be made orally in which case an officer of the concerned legal services authority or a paralegal volunteer can assist the person.

A person can also apply online for getting Legal Aid to any Legal Services Institution in the country by filling up the Legal Aid Application form available online at NALSA's website by going on the 'Online Application' Link on the Home Page, along with uploading necessary documents.

Various SLSAs/DLSAs/SCLSC/HCLSCs/TLSCs also have application forms available on their websites.

Procedure After Application

Legal aid is provided to the entitled persons through legal services authorities existing from the National to Taluka levels including the NALSA, State Legal Services Authorities, District Legal Services Authorities, Taluk Legal Services Committees, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee and High Court Legal Services Committees. If, however, an application or request for legal aid is received by NALSA, NALSA forwards the same to the concerned authority.

Once the application is submitted with the proper authority, it would be perused by the concerned Legal Services Institution as to what action is needed upon the same. The information about the next step on the application would then be sent to the parties concerned.

The action taken on an application received would vary from providing counseling/advice to the parties, providing a lawyer to represent them in the court, etc.

For More Information Contact :-

Member Secretary, HP State Legal Services Authority, Shimla,	HP 0177-2623862
Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Kinnaur at Rampur,	HP 01782-233305
Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Kinnaur at Rampur,	HP 01782-233605
Chairman, Sub Divisional Legal Services Committee, Reckong Peo,	HP 01786-222555
Chairman, Sub Divisional Legal Services Committee, Rampur,	HP 01782-233061
Chairman, Sub Divisional Legal Services Committee, Anni,	HP 01904-253461



विधिक सेवा प्राप्त करने का तरीका

1. उच्चतम न्यायालय स्तर पर उच्चतम न्यायालय विधिक सेवा समिति के सचिव (पंजीयक), उच्चतम न्यायालय विधिक सेवा समिति ;
2. उच्च न्यायालय स्तर पर उच्च न्यायालय विधिक सेवा समिति के सचिव (पंजीयक सतर्कता) ;
3. जिला स्तर पर जिला के जिला एवं स्तर न्यायाधीश एवं जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण के अध्यक्ष; तथा
4. उप- मंडल स्तर पर उप-मंडल में नियुक्त वरिष्ठ उप न्यायाधीश एवं उप-मंडलीय विधिक सेवा समिति के अध्यक्ष ।

विधिक सेवा प्राप्त करने के हकदार व्यक्ति सादे कागज पर उपरोक्त लिखित से सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं अगर आवेदनकर्ता की वार्षिक आमदनी एक लाख रुपए से कम है तो ऐसे व्यक्ति को अपने आवेदन के साथ आय प्रमाण पत्र या आय की घोषणा लगानी जरूरी है । यदि आवेदनकर्ता अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति का सदस्य है तो उसे अपने आवेदन पत्र के साथ जाति प्रमाण पत्र लगाना आवश्यक है ।

विधिक सेवा अधिनियम, 1987 के अनुसार वह व्यक्ति मुफ्त कानूनी सहायता प्राप्त करने का अधिकार रखता है जो कि

1. अनुसूचित जाति या अनुसूचित जनजाति के सदस्य हों या
2. संविधान के अनुच्छेद 23 में मानव दुर्व्यवहार या बेगार का शिकार हों या
3. महिला या बालक हों या
4. मानसिक रोगी या विकलांग हों या
5. अनपेक्षित अभाव जैसे बहुविनाश, जातीय हिंसा, जातीय अत्याचार, बाढ़, सूखा, भूकंप या आद्योगिक संकट के शिकार हों या
6. आद्योगिक श्रमिक हों या
7. कारागृह, किशोर, मनोचिकित्सा अस्पताल, मनोचिकित्सीय परिचर्या गृह में अभिरक्षा में रखे गए व्यक्ति हों या
8. हिजड़ा समुदाय से संबंधित हों या
9. ऐसे व्यक्ति जिसकी वार्षिक आय 1,00,000 /- (एक लाख) रुपये से कम हो या
10. वरिष्ठ नागरिक जिसकी आयु 60 वर्ष से अधिक हो और वार्षिक आय दो लाख से कम हो या
11. HIV या एड्स से पीड़ित व्यक्ति हों।

मुफ्त कानूनी सहायता के अन्तर्गत प्रदान की जाने वाली सेवाएं:

1. सरकारी खर्च पर वकील उपलब्ध करवाना व पात्र व्यक्ति को वकीलों के पैनल में से वकील चुनने की सुविधा देना।
2. न्याय शुल्क (कोर्ट फी) देना।
3. टाइपिंग और याचिकाओं तथा दस्तावेजों को तैयार करने में होने वाला खर्च उठाना।
4. गवाहों को बुलाने पर होने वाले खर्च देना।
5. मुकदमों से सम्बंधित अन्य खर्च देना ।
6. मुफ्त कानूनी सेवा में किसी मुकदमें में कानूनी सलाह प्राप्त करना ।