

## What is the Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA)?

MLSA is a federally and privately funded program that provides free legal assistance in civil cases to low-income people.

## What help can I find at MLSA?

- Legal advice and representation for clients,
- Referrals to pro bono attorneys and other providers,
- Self-help materials, and
- Educational brochures and information.

To qualify for our services, applicants generally must have income of 125% or less of the federal poverty level and limited assets. You must also be a U.S. citizen or an eligible alien.

We never charge a fee for our services. However, you may have to pay court costs and filing fees.

## What areas of law can I get help with?

- Family law,
- Landlord/tenant law,
- Housing issues,
- Debt and money problems,
- Tax problems,
- Public benefits,
- Employment law,
- Agricultural workers' legal issues,
- Indian law,
- Domestic violence,
- Sexual Assault and stalking,
- Identity theft and fraud, And
- Elder abuse.

## What does MLSA not handle?

MLSA does not handle auto accidents, personal injury, business-related matters or **any** criminal cases (including traffic citations). MLSA usually does not accept ongoing cases for representation, such as changes to parenting plans or existing custody decrees.

## How can I get help?

Call the MLSA HelpLine at (800) 666-6899 to talk with an Intake Specialist. The HelpLine is generally answered: Mon-Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

The Intake Specialist will ask you questions about your income, what possessions you own (cars, houses, land), and other personal information. The Intake Specialist needs this information to determine if you qualify for services.

If you do qualify for MLSA's help:

- We may schedule you an appointment to speak with an MLSA Advocate. We may also give you written information about your legal rights.
- We may ask you to send us more information about your case.
- We may refer you to a free attorney or a self-help clinic.
- MLSA will not tell anyone else anything about you unless you want us to.

## Where else can I find information or advice?

### [www.MontanaLawHelp.org](http://www.MontanaLawHelp.org)

Need legal information? Go online. Visit [www.MontanaLawHelp.org](http://www.MontanaLawHelp.org).

You can find information about legal problems such as divorce, parenting plans, landlord and tenant issues, and public benefits. You can also find information about the legal system, community resources and courts.

Can't find what you want? Use LiveHelp. Click on the LiveHelp picture and get help finding the information you need.

### **Montana State Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service**

LRIS refers people to Montana lawyers. (406) 449-6577.

### **State Law Library**

Information about all areas of the law, including the Montana Code, legal forms, and the option to ask research questions. [www.courts.mt.gov/library](http://www.courts.mt.gov/library). 1-800-710-9827

## How do I get more help?

Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) provides free civil legal help to low-income people. Contact us to see if you qualify:

- Apply anytime online at [mtlsa.org](http://mtlsa.org);
- Call our Helpline at 1-800-666-6899 (Helpline hours are limited).

## What help can I find at MLSA?

- Legal advice and representation;
- Referrals to volunteer attorneys and other providers;
- Self-help clinics and materials.

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### [www.MTLSA.org](http://www.MTLSA.org)

Find copies of all our brochures online. They are all available for free download!

This pamphlet is meant to give basic legal information, not legal advice about your problem. The law changes often and each case is different. We recommend you talk to an attorney about your legal problem.

# Montana Legal Services Association

## Overview of Services



*Providing, protecting, and enhancing access to justice*

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