

## ABOUT US

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### Community Legal Aid

Community Legal Aid (CLA) provides FREE civil legal assistance to low-income and elderly residents of Central and Western Massachusetts. CLA maintains full-service offices in Worcester, Fitchburg, Springfield, Northampton and Pittsfield, and also uses satellite office space to meet with clients throughout our region.

Because of special funding, CLA's elder unit serves elders in some communities outside of our traditional service area. In addition to serving residents of Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire counties, we are able to serve elders in the Massachusetts communities of Ashby, Ayer, Bellingham, Franklin, Groton, Medway, Pepperell, Shirley, and Townsend.

*CLA receives funding from Central Mass. Agency on Aging, Elder Services of Berkshire County, Greater Springfield Senior Services, Highland Valley Elder Services, LifePath, and WestMass ElderCare which are funded by the Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Federal Administration for Community Living, under the Older Americans Act.*



## CONTACT US

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### Fitchburg

515 Main Street, 3rd Floor  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

### Northampton

20 Hampton Avenue, Suite 100  
Northampton, MA 01060

### Pittsfield

152 North Street, Suite E155  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

### Springfield

One Monarch Place, Suite 400  
Springfield, MA 01144

### Worcester

370 Main Street, Suite 200  
Worcester, MA 01608

### Call us:

855-252-5342

Find us:    

[WWW.COMMUNITYLEGAL.ORG](http://WWW.COMMUNITYLEGAL.ORG)



## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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# SENIOR CITIZENS' LEGAL ADVOCACY



## WHAT WE DO

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### We provide free advice or representation on issues concerning:



Government benefits (Social Security, Supplemental Security Income [SSI], State Supplement Program [SSP], Veterans Benefits, unemployment compensation, Emergency Assistance for the Elderly, Disabled and Children [EAEDC], and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP], also known as Food Stamps)



Healthcare (including Medicare and MassHealth)



Long term care (including involuntary transfers/discharges from nursing homes)



Legal issues related to elder abuse (physical, emotional, financial)



Autonomy issues (durable powers of attorney and health care proxies)



Housing (eviction defense, public or subsidized housing application denials, termination of rental subsidies)

### We may be able to assist with other legal issues, such as:



Sealing criminal records



Family/domestic relations issues (such as divorce and restraining orders)



Bankruptcy

### We provide a full range of legal assistance

Although we frequently need to provide representation in court and before administrative agencies, not all elders need full representation. Our attorneys and paralegals utilize a full range of legal solutions to assist our clients in resolving their legal problems. We provide legal information so that the clients can determine what their legal rights might be. We also write letters in an attempt to resolve the disputes. We attempt to negotiate settlements on behalf of the clients. We educate clients so that they can represent themselves where appropriate. Occasionally, the client's problem turns out to be a non-legal matter or one which could best be resolved by another agency. In those situations, we will refer the client to someone who can help resolve the problem.

### Know your rights

We provide an extensive community legal education program. Our attorneys and paralegals will speak to senior groups and to agencies about legal issues of particular concern to the elderly. Pamphlets on a variety of legal issues are also available from our office. Please give us a call if you would like more information on the services we provide. If you are housebound or in a nursing home, you may request a home visit. You may also request an appointment in one of our outreach offices.



## TALK TO A LAWYER ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS. IT'S FREE!

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Call our intake line at:

**(855) 252-5342**

Visit us online for current phone intake hours and to apply for services 24/7:

**COMMUNITYLEGAL.ORG/GET-HELP**

**Apply now! →**

*Scan this QR code with the camera on your smartphone to be taken to the online intake application.*



Community Legal Aid's attorneys and paralegals have expertise in legal issues affecting elders. We do not have any financial guidelines for our services; however, in deciding who to represent, we target our services to the most vulnerable elders based on social and/or economic need. We also give priority to certain kinds of legal problems, such as loss of housing, loss of income, access to health care, and protection against physical and financial abuse.