



KING COUNTY OFFICE

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Northwest Justice Project (NJP) provides **free** civil (non-criminal) legal services to people who cannot afford a lawyer. NJP's King County field office is located in Seattle and serves low-income residents of King County (clients must have an income of no more than 200% of Federal Poverty Level). Interpreters are provided to those who do not speak English or who are hearing impaired.

Help is available in the following areas, but please note that case acceptance is dependent on office priorities, staff availability, and the merit of each case. Services, especially representation by an attorney, may not be available even if all case criteria are met.

General Family Law

Advice and representation in family law cases where a parent or child is at risk due to domestic violence, sexual or physical abuse, or abandonment or neglect; or where there is domestic violence and the client is 55 years or older; and cases in which non-parents are seeking custody where abuse or neglect is an issue.

Domestic Violence Community Law Project

Advice, assistance, and representation in family law cases and selected immigration cases where a parent or child is at risk due to domestic violence, sexual or physical abuse, or abandonment or neglect; or where there is domestic violence and the client is 55 years or older; or cases in which non-parents are seeking custody where abuse or neglect is an issue. This is a joint project with Consejo Counseling & Referral Service and Refugee Women's Alliance and clients must be referred from these agencies.

Cross-Cultural Family Law Clinic

Family law advice, assistance, and referrals for persons with children that have urgent or complex custody or visitation issues involving domestic violence, and who have limited English or cultural barriers. This is a joint project with the King County Bar Association.

Seattle Domestic Violence Project

Advice, brief service, and direct representation for survivors of domestic violence; and telephone advice to advocates working with survivors of domestic violence. Clients must be City of Seattle residents with civil legal issues. Clients gain access to the program through referral by a domestic violence advocate.

Veterans' Issues

Advice, brief service, and direct representation for eligible veterans and service personnel on issues relating to denial of veterans' benefits.

Housing Law

Issues related to public, subsidized, or other government housing, including access to affordable housing; housing stability; significant issues of low-income housing quality; eviction from public or other subsidized housing or mobile home parks; discrimination in low-income housing; housing subsidy terminations; and consumer fraud affecting low-income homeowners. Services also include advice and limited advocacy on behalf of tenant organizations. Emergencies are not handled; these are referred to KCBA's Housing Justice Project.

Consumer Law

Advice and representation in cases involving debt collection abuses (illegal garnishment, harassment, etc.); payday loans; tax refund anticipation loans; car purchases and repairs; trade school scams; student loans; and foreclosure rescue scams.

Welfare & Health Care Law

Advice and representation in the following areas: TANF, WorkFirst; food assistance; medical assistance (including prescription drug coverage through Medicare Part D, physician or dental services; Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) services (including residential placement or vocational training); and mental health services through the Regional Support Network (RSN); terminations of COPES/MPC services; also reductions of services through COPES/MPC if the reduction will result in institutionalization; or childcare providers and in-home personal care providers denied or terminated from employment by DSHS as a result of a criminal conviction.

Refugee & Immigrant Advocacy

Advice and representation for immigrants and refugees in the following areas: citizenship for elderly and disabled immigrants; assistance to victims of human trafficking; domestic violence; TANF; GAU; Food Stamps; Medical Assistance; SSI; Refugee Assistance; and WorkFirst. This is a joint project with the University of Washington School of Law.

Education Law

Advice and representation in cases where a student has been wrongfully expelled or suspended from school; or where a school district has denied a disabled student appropriate classroom accommodation.

Native American Unit

Advice and representation for Native Americans regarding matters of federal, state or tribal Indian law; including at-risk youth; tribal and federal services for Indians; jurisdictional disputes; Indian trust property; and Indian status cases.

How to Get Legal Help in King County

Starting January 1, 2008, anyone with a legal issue in King County may call 2-1-1 for information and a referral.

People age 60 and over may call the CLEAR *Senior line at 1-888-387-7111 from 9:30am to 12:30pm, Monday through Friday, for civil legal advice, referral, and brief service. Assistance is available for many civil legal issues (some regardless of income); however, some restrictions apply.

NJP is federally funded, and federal regulations also prohibit some specific types of representation such as, for example, class action litigation.

Community Legal Education & Training

Informational brochures are available for online viewing or download at: www.washingtonlawhelp.org.

Upon request, seminars and trainings on the legal topics listed above are provided to community and professional groups.

This information is subject to change. It is current as of March 17, 2008.

