

Legal Services

Onondaga County Bar Association *Lawyer Referral Services* at 471-2690.

<https://www.onbar.org/find-a-lawyer/>

If you are in need of a referral, call the **Onondaga County Bar Association (OCBA) Lawyer Referral Service**, your call will be answered by a Referral Specialist who will connect you with an attorney who is familiar with your type of legal issue. The attorney will provide a telephone consultation and further advise how the attorney **will charge for his/her services**. The lawyers are licensed and members in good standing with the OCBA. LRS staff is available between 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except for holidays. The LRS staff are NOT attorneys and cannot provide you with legal advice. The attorneys who participate in this service are private attorneys who charge regular rates as determined by them.

If you are looking for an attorney at no charge, you may want to try contacting one of these legal services organizations:

Legal Services of Central New York lscny.org 315-703-6500

A non-profit law firm founded in 1966 to provide free, civil legal assistance to low-income families and individuals in thirteen counties of Central New York. Call Toll Free: 1-877-777-6152. If you have an emergency involving a hearing date or legal papers, please contact us immediately. Do not wait until the hearing date or deadline to answer legal papers has passed. By calling the Central New York Legal HelpLine, you can get free legal advice about civil (non-criminal) legal problems. Please note that we can only help you if you qualify for our services. An intake worker will talk to you first to see if you qualify. In some cases, our services may be limited to advice only. Other cases may be referred to a staff attorney for further action. Consumer Problems, Housing Problems, Divorce and Other Family, Access to healthcare, Elder law.

Hiscock Legal Aid Society hiscocklegalaid.org 315-422-8191

NYS Attorney General's Office - Syracuse Office

615 Erie Blvd. West, Suite 102, Syracuse

315- 448-4800 Office Hours: 8:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday-Friday.

www.ag.ny.gov General Helpline: 1-800-771-7755

(For calls made within New York State)

TDD/TTY Toll Free Line: 1-800-788-9898

Immigration Fraud Hotline: 1(866) 390-2992

Healthcare Hotline: 1-800-428-9071

Medicaid Fraud Control Unit: 1-877-873-7283

To contact by mail, please write to:

Office of the Attorney General

The Capitol

Albany, NY 12224-0341

Catholic Charities 1654 West Onondaga St., Syracuse 13204 424-1810

Provides information and referral services, and advocates for those in need of case management and representative payee services (finances).

Onondaga County Commission on Human Rights

Civic Center, 421 Montgomery St., 11th Floor, Syracuse

315- 435-3565

Promotes understanding and acceptance of diversity, facilitates intergroup communication, identifies and addresses sources of intergroup tension and conflict, reduces conditions which can lead to discrimination and restrict opportunity, and provides related education, information and referral.

The Human Rights Commission especially focuses on addressing prejudice and discrimination on the basis of color, creed, sex, age, religion, nationality/national origin, language used for communication, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or any other arbitrary factors.

The Human Rights Commission staff are also the contact point for the new Jail Oversight Committee. For more information, or to address serious concerns about treatment or conditions at the Onondaga County Jail, please contact the Human Rights Commission staff. Hours: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Please call ahead for appointments.

Mental Hygiene Legal Service

The Syracuse Building, 224 Harrison Street, Suite 502, Syracuse, New York 13202-3066

315- 473-9495

The Mental Hygiene Legal Service (MHLS) provides legal services, advice and assistance to persons receiving care or alleged to be in need of care at inpatient and community-based facilities for the mentally disabled. MHLS represents such persons in judicial and administrative proceedings concerning admission, retention, transfer, treatment and guardianship.

In addition to handling judicial proceedings, MHLS provides advice and representation regarding standards of care and other matters affecting the civil liberties of persons receiving care at facilities for the mentally disabled. MHLS can be assigned as counsel or court evaluator in Mental Hygiene Law Article 81 guardianship proceedings for persons in any type of facility or in the community. Finally, Article 10 of Mental Hygiene Law institutionalizes MHLS as counsel of choice in all sex offender civil management cases.

Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc.

221 South Warren Street, Suite 200, Syracuse, NY 13202

315- 471-3409

The mission of the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County, Inc. is to expand access to justice by identifying and meeting the unmet civil legal services needs of low income people in Onondaga County through increasing the pro bono participation of the legal community.

Mediation Services

Elder Transitions Mediation Program

New Justice Conflict Resolution Services

400 Leavenworth Avenue, Suite 100, Syracuse, 13204

315-489-3015 (Elder Transitions)

315-471-4676 (Main Office)

The Elder Transitions program is designed to support collaboration, reduce stress, and preserve or repair relationships among elders, their adult children, and community members. Mediation is a confidential, informal, problem-solving process guided by trained, impartial mediators. Participants identify issues,

develop options, consider alternatives, and work together toward decisions about future actions and outcomes. Common elder mediation issues include living arrangements, financial management, and estate and end-of-life planning. Fees, which include a two-hour mediation meeting, range from \$0-\$100 and are charged on a sliding scale based on annual income.

New Justice also offers mediation, arbitration, and process facilitation services as alternatives to litigation for resolving other types of disputes, including custody/visitation, landlord/tenant, and customer/merchant.