

If you have a legal problem, or need legal advice, and would like to find out whether you qualify for legal services from the Senior Citizens Law Project, please contact:

SENIOR CITIZENS LAW PROJECT OF H.E.L.P. LEGAL ASSISTANCE

736 Federal Street, Suite 1401
Davenport, IA 52803

(563)322-6216
Toll free 1-800-627-1596

OFFICE HOURS

Requests for assistance may be made by phone or in-person from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Monday through Friday except on legal holidays.

- The office is closed during the noon hour.
- From 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., only "emergency" requests are handled.

SENIOR CITIZENS LAW PROJECT OF H.E.L.P. LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Legal Assistance for Senior Citizens



SENIOR CITIZENS LAW PROJECT OF H.E.L.P. LEGAL ASSISTANCE

736 Federal Street, Suite 1401
Davenport, IA 52803

Phone (563)322-6216
Toll free number for persons
outside of the local calling area:
1-800-627-1596

The Senior Citizens Law Project is a publicly funded law office which provides free legal services to persons 60 years of age or older in many civil (non-criminal) matters. The office has a staff of several attorneys licensed to practice in the State of Iowa, and a full-time legal assistant. The attorneys provide a full range of legal services – ranging from routine legal counseling and advice to negotiation to representation in contested cases before administrative agencies and courts.



Under the terms of its funding agreements, the Senior Citizens Law Project is required to give a preference to senior citizens with the greatest economic or social needs. The office can be reached by calling (563)323-7345, or 1-800-627-1596 for persons calling from outside of the local calling area. As necessary, attorneys travel to rural areas, and perform home visits, or visits to nursing homes.

DOES THE SENIOR CITIZENS LAW PROJECT PROVIDE REPRESENTATION IN PREPARING WILLS?



Yes, such assistance is available. However, to insure the services are directed to senior citizens in the greatest need, representation is limited to the preparation of "simple" wills. A "simple" will (1) disposes of a relatively small amount of property; and (2) does not include trusts, life estates, or other

methods for delaying the disposition of property. The Senior Citizens Law Project does not provide any assistance in the probate area.

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

The Senior Citizens Law Project has a wide variety of education brochures and booklets which describe legal rights and responsibilities in many areas of the law.

In addition, the Senior Citizens Law Project honors as many requests as possible from senior citizens' organizations for speakers on various legal topics of interest.

WHAT TYPE OF CASES ARE HANDLED?

- Dependent Adult Abuse
- Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Living Wills
- Simple Wills
- Food Stamps
- Landlord/Tenant
- Medicare and Medicaid (Title 19)
- Selected Insurance Matters
- Unemployment Compensation
- Consumer Protection
- Problems with Creditors
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security
- Social Security and SSI Disability
- Insurance to Supplement Medicare
- Nursing Homes
- Utility Bills and Shutoffs
- Veterans Benefits
- Property Tax Credits and Suspensions

Because of federal regulations and office priorities, the Senior Citizens Law Project does NOT provide assistance in some areas of the law, such as criminal law, lawsuits for money damages, taxes (except for certain tax controversies and securing the Earned Income Credit for the ESL population), probate, estate planning, complex wills, business law, and real estate closings. Generally speaking, the office directs its services to those senior citizens with the greatest social or economic needs.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR LEGAL SERVICES?

The Senior Citizens Law Project has the following eligibility requirements:

1. The person seeking services must be 60 years of age or older;
2. That person must reside in Clinton, Scott, or Muscatine County; and
3. The person's legal problem must be of a kind that is handled by the program.

A person calling the Senior Citizens Law Project will be asked a few questions in order to determine eligibility for services, and for general statistical reporting purposes. Questions concerning income, age, and disability status are useful to the Senior Citizens Law Project in determining if target populations are being served. Individual responses, and all communications concerning an individual's legal problem, are strictly confidential.



IS THERE ANY FEE FOR THE SERVICES OF AN ATTORNEY?

There is no charge for the professional services provided by the attorneys of the Senior Citizens Law Project. The client is required to pay for any actual costs incurred by the office on the client's behalf during the course of representation (e.g., the costs billed to the office for obtaining records at the client's request, court filing fees, costs billed to the office for the service of legal papers, costs of legal discovery such as depositions, etc.) The attorney will keep the client advised of any such actual costs. Although there is no fee for professional services, clients are free to make a contribution to the office if financially able to do so.

HOW IS THE SENIOR CITIZENS LAW PROJECT FUNDED?

A federal law known as Older Americans Act (OAA) authorizes funding for legal services to senior citizens. At the local level, the program receives these funds from Generations Area Agency on Aging.



Funds received from the United Way of the Quad Cities, Iowa Legal Aid (ILA), the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program, the State of Iowa, the Scott County Bar Association, and other sources supplement OAA funds.