

Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or
Disadvantaged of Western New York, Inc.
(LSED)

Contact Information

Website: <http://www.lsed.org/>
Phone: 716-853-3087
Address: 237 Main Street, Suite 1015
Buffalo, NY 14202

Description of Organization

LSED is a not-for-profit human service agency incorporated in 1978 to provide specialized, free civil legal services to elderly people in the community of Western New York. This year LSED closed 1,029 cases, providing assistance to 1,304 Western New Yorkers. As the number and percentage of seniors increase in all counties of Western New York, there will be an increased need for LSED's services.

Volunteer Opportunities

Elder Law - LSED can provide defense counsel to individuals who are the subject of proceedings pursuant to Article 81 of the Mental Hygiene Law. LSED also drafts advance directives for their clients, both powers of attorney and health care proxies.

Health Care Program - Staff handles appeals and questions regarding Medicaid, Medicare, prescription drug coverage, private health insurance, home health care, long-term care insurance and patients' rights.

Housing Program - LSED helps their clients avoid homelessness by defending them in evictions, tax and mortgage foreclosure proceedings and predatory lending schemes. LSED also represents elderly homeowners in the City of Buffalo faced with housing code violations and assists those clients in obtaining grant money to make the necessary repairs. LSED also handles bankruptcy matters for qualified clients who are in danger of losing their homes.

Medicare Appeals - LSED contracts with the Department of Social Services to handle Medicare appeals for disabled Medicaid recipients of any age directly referred through the Departments of Social Services in those counties.

Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Project - In partnership with colleagues at the Legal Aid Bureau, LSED handles referrals from Buffalo and the counties of Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Orleans, and Wyoming.

Public Benefits - LSED removes illegal liens on Social Security accounts, handles utility shut-offs and represents clients in appealing adverse decisions in the areas of Social Security retirement, non-disability SSI and Veterans' benefits. LSED also has a pooled supplemental needs trust with People Inc. and Key Bank to provide trustee services to disabled persons receiving public benefits.

Relative Right's Project - The goal of this program is to provide support to seniors caring for minor children. A secondary goal is to preserve intact families and keep children out of the foster care system. Older relative caregivers can get assistance with custody and adoption of their minor family members and can also obtain help with issues involving the child's (and their own) public benefits.

Trustee Services - LSED provides trustee services to disabled persons receiving public benefits. In 2004, LSED formed a pooled supplemental needs trust with People Inc. and Key Bank to provide trustee services to disabled persons receiving public benefits.

Areas of Substantive Law

Bankruptcy Law

Foreclosure Prevention

Housing Law

Family Law

Elder Law

Health Law

Public Benefits

Trusts and Estates

General Notes

Capacity: LSED has the capacity to supervise and manage 3 more volunteers. The volunteer can work from his or her own office or home.

Experience: Previous experience in substantive law is not required.

Supervision: The volunteer gets assigned a supervising attorney.