

Case Referrals

Clients should be told that they are not guaranteed assistance through the VLP or Legal Services Alabama. The VLP is limited by the volunteers we have available to accept a case. Legal Services is limited by the number of staff. Please make it clear that these are only sources that they can seek further assistance but that it might not be available.

Volunteer Lawyer Program Intake Line – 1-888-857-8571

Legal Services Alabama Intake Line – 1-866-456-4995

Family Law Cases:

As a general rule the VLP accepts uncontested family law matters and Legal Services Alabama accepts contested matters particularly those which involve domestic violence.

An additional resource is pro se forms that have been developed by the Bar and are on Legal Services Alabama's web site <http://www.lawhelp.org/AL/> or www.alsp.org

Volunteer Lawyers Program

- Uncontested Divorce – both parties in agreement and willing to sign
- Divorce by Publication – Client is truly unaware of spouses whereabouts (Must pay publication costs)
- Divorce – spouse in jail, we generally accept cases where the spouse is in jail as generally the prison officials will assist in the signing of the papers or a default will be taken.
- Uncontested Custody – All parties in agreement to custody change and willing to sign
- Uncontested Visitation - All parties in agreement
- Child Support Modification – We will accept child support modifications, if there has been a significant change in income due to no fault of the client.
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Legal Services Alabama

Contested Family Law cases should be referred to Legal Services Alabama particularly cases in which there is domestic violence. Domestic Violence case should also be given the number to the

Family Sunshine Center:

24-hour Crisis Lines

334-263-0218 (collect calls are accepted)

1-800-650-6522

1-800-787-3224 (for the hearing impaired)

An additional source of assistance are pro se forms on Legal Services Alabama's web site.

Pro Se Forms www.alsp.org

Child Support	How to change a Child Support Order Request to Change Child Support Child Support Obligation Income Statement/Affidavit Affidavit of Substantial Hardship Request for a Contempt Hearing (nonpayment of support) Also see: <i>Child Support a Guide to Services in Alabama</i>
Custody	How to Change a Custody or Visitation Order Request to Change the Current Custody or Visitation Order Child Support Information Sheet Affidavit of Substantial Hardship First Petition for Child Custody Affidavit of Substantial Hardship
Visitation	How to ask for Visitation Petition for Visitation Affidavit of Substantial Hardship How to Change a Custody or Visitation Order Request to Change the Current Custody or Visitation Order Child Support Information Sheet Affidavit of Substantial Hardship Request for a Contempt Hearing Affidavit of Substantial Hardship
Paternity	Who is the Legal Father Petition to Establish Paternity Affidavit of Substantial Hardship
Guardian of Mentally Retarded Adult	Request to be Guardian of a Mentally Retarded Adult Child, Brother or Sister
Name Change	Request to Change Name (for an Adult)
Landlord/Tenant	Answer to Landlord's Claim Residential Eviction/Unlawful Detainer Also see: <i>The Alabama Tenants' Handbook</i>

Landlord Tenant Cases:

The VLP only accepts private Landlord/Tenant cases we do not accept cases involving public housing or Section 8. Please review case for merit. Due to the short deadline eviction cases

should be referred to Legal Services Alabama. Also see the pro se form Answer to Landlord's Claim – Residential Eviction/Unlawful Detainer

Legal Services Alabama accepts both private and public landlord/tenant issues including eviction cases.

Mortgage Foreclosure Cases

All Mortgage Foreclosure cases should be referred to Legal Services Alabama. They have received a HUD grant and have lawyers on staff that deal only with mortgage foreclosure issues. They are also certified HUD counselors. Additionally they are referring all foreclosures cases out to the VLP foreclosure panel.

Bankruptcy Cases:

The VLP accepts bankruptcy cases but this is an area of high need. We may not be able to accept a client when they call.

Legal Services Alabama also handles Bankruptcy cases.

Due to the limited supply you may want to refer the client to additional resources such as
Consumer Credit Counseling
777 S Lawrence St
Montgomery, AL 36104-5076
(334) 265-8545

Garnishment of Wages

Refer the client to Legal Services Alabama for assistance 1-866-456-4995

Contract/Warranty Cases

The VLP accepts these types of cases as does Legal Services Alabama. Please evaluate the case for merit before referral.

Wills and Estate Cases

Please refer all will preparation cases to the Volunteer Lawyers Program.
The VLP also accepts Small Estate Administration cases

Legal Services Alabama runs an Elder Law Hotline and clients that are over income for VLP services can be referred to that line as it has no income limit. The Elder law Hotline is 1-866-456-3959.

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