



## Carefully read instructions



Legal Aid provides eviction defense services to tenants who reside in Broward County, were served with court documents, and want to save their housing.

We do not provide financial services or legal assistance suing landlords for money disputes.

Ensure all sections of this application are filled out, and provide copies of the listed items below. Without these documents your application will be incomplete, and you will not qualify for services.

- **Complete and sign** this intake application
- Copy of your Driver's License or Florida State Identification Document
- Proof of Income (last 2 paystubs, bank statements, Income Tax Returns, etc.)
- **If you are a Section 8 tenant** or reside in Subsidized Housing, submit: Provide copy of HAP Contract, lease, Notice of Termination, Notice of Tenant's portion of rent.
- The front page of the Eviction Summons to determine date and time of service.
- If you do not have the front page of your eviction, indicate the exact date and time you were served with the summons: \_\_\_\_\_

How were you served?    Personally     Posting at the door

### APPLICATION FOR SERVICES

Please understand you **DO NOT** become a client of Legal Aid unless you complete the intake application process and a staff member advises that you have qualified for services.

**You must apply in person** at our office located at 491 N. State Road 7, Plantation, FL 33317.

**Be prepared to wait until a staff member is available to meet with you.** Due to the high demand of services, we cannot guarantee that we can meet with all those who come to the office.

**\* If you have an immediate need for an attorney, you may also call the Broward County Lawyer Referral Service at (954) 764-8310.**

If your answer is due within 72 hours, and you wish to dispute the eviction, please read and follow the instructions on the first page of the Eviction Summons. **Beware:** The **deadline** to file your answer is **five (5) days after service** of Summons and eviction complaint.

- **Submitting this application indicates your agreement with the terms outlined here.**



**LEGAL CHECK-UP**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES NO**

- 1. Are you 60 years of age or older?
- 2. Are you a legal immigrant who is interested in becoming a U.S. Citizen?
- 3. Has your spouse/partner recently physically harmed you or threatened you?
- 4. Do you have trouble with your spouse/boyfriend, etc., as to sharing time with your child?
- 5. Do you want to file for divorce?
- 6. Did your application for Unemployment Benefits was denied?
- 7. Do you need assistance with any of the following:
  - Food Stamps     Medicaid/Medicare     Transportation
  - SSI/Social Security Disability     TANF/Cash Assistance     Utilities Shut-off
- 8. Do you need assistance with Food  Clothing  Medical Care
- 9. Have you served in the United States Military?
- 10. Do you have problems paying rent, or other type of problems with your landlord?
- 11. Did the landlord terminate your lease, or is he/she threatening to evict you?
- 12. Is the place you reside in very bad condition? (mold, leaks, pest, etc.)
- 13. Are you struggling to pay your mortgage, Condo, or HOA fees?
- 14. Are you currently homeless, or living in a Drug or Alcohol Treatment Program?
- 15. Is your child having any of the following problems in school: behavior, suspensions, expulsions, academic, in need of special services or special education?
- 16. Has your driver license been suspended?
- 17. Do you need help defending collections/garnishments?
- 18. Do you have an Income Tax problem with IRS?

**\*\* If you are a VETERAN or a PERSON LIVING with HIV/AIDS you may qualify for additional services, let the person assisting you know about it. \*\***

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



## HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ How did you hear about Legal Aid? \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST/MIDDLE/LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY #: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ APT#: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELLPHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ UNEMPLOYED: \_\_\_\_\_

LANDLORD NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LANDLORD EMAIL & PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBSIDIZED HOUSING: Are you receiving Section 8  Public Housing Assistance

Which one is you Public Housing Authority: Broward County  Deerfield Beach

Dania Beach  Pompano Beach  Fort Lauderdale  Hollywood

### DEMOGRAPHICS

This information is used for reporting purposes, without any client identifiers, and will not be used for any discriminatory purposes.

RACE: \_\_\_\_\_ ETHNICITY: \_\_\_\_\_ MARITAL STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER: Female  Male  Transgender  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

DISABLED  Deaf/Hearing Impaired  Blind/Visually impaired

SEXUAL ORIENTATION: Heterosexual  Gay  Lesbian  Q/Fluid

HIV STATUS: Positive  Negative  Unknown

VETERAN: Active service/Veteran  Widow(er) of Veteran  Honorable discharged

Are you the caretaker of a minor child whose parent is a deceased veteran or active serviceperson

Do you have Health Insurance Yes  No  Would you like assistance in trying to obtain it

Have you, or a close family member, been a victim of a crime

Current living situation. I am living in a shelter  Name of Shelter \_\_\_\_\_

MIGRANT Yes  No

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION: Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

SOURCES OF MONTHLY INCOME FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD:

\*Fill out all sources of income for each income producing member of the household

\$ _____ SSI	\$ _____ VETERANS BENEFITS
\$ _____ TANF	\$ _____ UNEMPLOYMENT
\$ _____ CHILD SUPPORT	\$ _____ JOB
\$ _____ DISABILITY	\$ _____ OTHER:

Do you have reason to believe that your income is likely to change significantly in the near future?

No  Yes  If yes, how so? \_\_\_\_\_

ASSETS: CHECKING ACCOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_ SAVINGS ACCOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RENT: WHAT IS YOUR MONTHLY RENT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

THE LAST MONTH THAT YOU PAID RENT IN FULL? \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MUCH RENT DO YOU OWE? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE ANY MONEY TO PAY? NO YES IF SO, HOW MUCH? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE PROOF OF PRIOR RENT PAYMENTS? YES NO

IF YES, FOR WHICH MONTHS? \_\_\_\_\_

Can we use your email to send important community announcements? Yes  No

**The Housing Rights Unit of Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc.** will advise you if you qualify for services or not, after a full review of all the information you provided. Please know, you may be asked to collect additional documents. It is your responsibility to timely provide all requested information so that a decision can be made. Range of Services:

**Advice and counsel: AN ATTORNEY WILL NOT REPRESENT YOU. A member of our legal team will talk to you about the law and possible defenses or claims you may have and you can ask any and all questions you have. You will be advised on the legal process and what you can expect as your case or issue proceeds. If you have questions in the future, you can return to our office for additional advice or review. If you do return for additional assistance, you must update us with new information and documents that occurred since your first visit.**

**Representation: An attorney will be assigned to represent you on your matter, which may include more than advice and counsel.**

**Declined: If your case does not meet out eligibility or case requirements, we regretfully will be unable to give you advice and counsel or representation.**

PLEASE READ AND SIGN:

The information I have given on this application is TRUE AND CORRECT to the best of my knowledge. I have read the above policies, and agree to apply for legal services on the terms set out above.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**CITIZENSHIP STATUS**

I am a United States Citizen. Yes  No

\* If yes, then sign at the bottom and skip the *Immigration Status ((FFLA Eligible))* section below.

**IMMIGRATION STATUS ((FFLA ELIGIBLE))**

Yes  No  Have a Deportation Order?

Yes  No  Are you a Permanent Resident?

Yes  No  Do you have Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

Yes  No  Do you have a Green Card? If yes, Green Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Do you have a Work Permit?

Yes  No  Are you a DACA Recipient?

Yes  No  Do you have Immigration Court Documents?

Yes  No  Do you have a Notice to Appear?

Yes  No  Do you have a Notice of Hearing?

Yes  No  Do you have Parole Documents?

Yes  No  Do you have I-94?

Yes  No  Have you Filed any Documents with USCIS? If yes, Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Did you receive any documents when you came into the US? If so, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No  Do you have a current visa? If it expired, when? (mm/dd/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

Alien Number \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Taxpayer Number (ITIN) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last arrival to US (mm/dd/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

Place of arrival (City, State) \_\_\_\_\_

How did you enter the US? Airplane  Boat  Car  on foot

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**INFORMATION RELEASE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize LEGAL AID SERVICE OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC., to obtain, inspect, copy and receive any information in your possession pertaining to myself or any member of my family. This release is given without limitation and applies to both confidential and non- confidential information in your possession from any source and in any form (including but not limited to drug/alcohol abuse and psychological/psychiatric reports and information concerning HIV/AIDS).

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Last 4 digits of Social Security #**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



**LEGAL AID SERVICE OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC.**  
**CONSENT**

I understand that the person(s) with whom I am having a problem (the opposing party) may come to Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc., (LAS) for legal help and may be eligible for legal assistance. LAS cannot represent both sides of a case as it would result in a "conflict of interest". I promise to tell LAS the truth about myself and my legal problem so LAS can decide if I am eligible for legal help and determine if a "conflict of interest" exists. If the opposing party and I are both eligible for legal services from LAS, I understand, agree and consent that LAS can decide to either: (1) refer each of us to a different volunteer private attorney to help us through Broward Lawyers Care or (2) decide to assist one of us and refer the other person to be helped by a volunteer private attorney. In either case, I understand that the information I give to LAS will not be shared with or given to the opposing party's attorney.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**LIMITED RETAINER AGREEMENT**

I, do hereby retain LEGAL AID SERVICE OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC. (LAS), solely for the purpose of obtaining and receiving the information necessary to determine whether the matter that I have consulted LAS about is a matter in which LAS can or will provide me with representation. I have also been advised, and do fully understand, that if LAS, after reviewing the information related to my case, determines that it will not accept my case, the program will notify me of that fact and will not act as my attorney with regard to this matter. If LAS does agree to accept my case, it will promptly notify me of that fact.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**LEGAL AID SERVICE OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC. (Legal Aid) RETAINER STATEMENT  
(CLIENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, want **LEGAL AID** to represent me for free on the following matter:

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Everything I've told Legal Aid about my case is true, as far as I know.

I understand that a Legal Aid attorney, a paralegal, or third-year law student supervised by a Legal Aid attorney, may represent me. I also understand that Legal Aid may send my case to a private attorney who will represent me for free.

I understand that if Legal Aid determines that I am able to pay, I will pay for the cost of filing court papers and for other expenses in my case, unless Legal Aid can get the court to file my papers for free. I also understand that if Legal Aid helps me win money on my case, I will repay Legal Aid from my winnings for filing fees and other expenses spent on my case. If Legal Aid can get the other side to pay for filing fees and other expenses, any costs advanced by me will be returned to me.

Sometimes Legal Aid can try to get the other side of the case to pay for my Attorney fees or paralegal fees. If that happens, I agree to let Legal Aid ask for and keep this payment.

I won't talk to the other side or their lawyer without asking my Legal Aid lawyer and will call Legal Aid right away if they try to talk to me.

I promise to let Legal Aid know where I am living, where I can get mail/email and will give Legal Aid a telephone number and or email address where I can be reached. I understand Legal Aid will not sell or disclose my information to another organization and will only use it to send me information about my case or other community announcements. If I move or get a new telephone number or email, I will let Legal Aid know right away.

I promise to tell Legal Aid if I have any changes in my family size, in my job or in my income. I will tell Legal Aid if I get more money. I will come on time to appointments, hearings or anything else I am asked to be at for my case. I will always cooperate with Legal Aid in handling my case.

I understand that Legal Aid can stop representing me for a good reason, but only after telling me and hearing my side. Some good reasons would be if I don't cooperate and if I miss a court hearing. Some other reasons are: if I don't tell Legal Aid about changes in my address, telephone number or income; if I make too much money; or if Legal Aid does not believe that what I am asking for is reasonable.

I can tell Legal Aid to stop representing me whenever I want. Legal

Aid won't settle my case unless I say it is ok.

I have the right to complain if I don't like the work Legal Aid does on my case or if Legal Aid won't represent me anymore. Legal Aid gave me a form which tells me what to do if I want to complain.

I agree to give Legal Aid all papers which will help with my case. I understand that Legal Aid will return all my papers to me after copies are made or when my case is completed. I understand that it is my responsibility to ask for my original papers back. Seven (7) years after my case is finished, Legal Aid will destroy my file because it needs to make room for new files.

I've been given a copy of this form to keep.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Sign Your Name)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



### **Text Messaging About Your Case**

You can choose to communicate by text with your Legal Aid Service of Broward County advocate. You and your attorney or paralegal should talk about that option and how it works. Texting with Legal Aid Service of Broward County is different from standard text procedures. Texts you send to us go to your electronic file at Legal Aid, **not** your advocate's cell phone. Texts you receive will come from your file, not a cell phone. Texts are best for short messages without private information. For example, we may use texts to confirm an appointment or a court date.

**Please do not use text messages for emergencies.** If you have an urgent reason to talk to us, you should call your advocate's direct line. Your call or voice mail message will be received faster than a text.

**We want to make sure that the cell phone number you are giving us is a "SAFE" number.** If you share your phone with your family or friends, or if other people might look at your phone, please let your advocate know. Otherwise, we are going to assume the phone number you provided is a "SAFE" number for the advocate to text you. You and your attorney or paralegal can discuss if texting is a good option in your case.

**Talk to your attorney or paralegal about the best way to discuss private information.** Generally, a meeting or private phone call is best.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize Legal Aid Service of Broward County to send me text messages regarding my case at (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_. I acknowledge that message and data rates may apply and that this is a "safe" mobile number.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, **do not** authorize Legal Aid Service of Broward County to send me text messages regarding my case.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



## PRO BONO REFERRAL AGREEMENT

1. I understand that Legal Aid may not be able to represent me, but may be able to refer my case to a private attorney who will represent me for free. Some private attorneys in the community agree to donate their time to represent Legal Aid clients. If Legal Aid is not able to find a private attorney to represent me for free, I understand that I may not have the services of an attorney and I may have to represent myself.
2. I understand that if I am able to pay, I will pay for the costs of filing court papers in my case. I also understand that if my attorney helps me win money on my case, I will pay for filing fees and other expenses spent on my case from my winnings.
3. I understand that I have an obligation to keep Broward Lawyers Care informed of any changes in my address or telephone number.
4. I understand that I have an obligation to keep Broward Lawyers Care informed of changes in my income or assets or changes in my household's income or assets. I understand that such changes may mean that I am no longer eligible for free legal services.
5. If an attorney is assigned to represent me, he or she may stop representing me if I do not cooperate with him or her or with Broward Lawyers Care.
6. I can tell the attorney to stop representing me whenever I want.
7. The attorney will not settle my case unless I say that it is okay.
8. I have a right to complain if I do not like the work that is being done on my case.
9. Broward Lawyers Care has advised me that they may be required to provide certain information including my name, eligibility information, and financial records including trust account records to auditors or monitors pursuant to federal law. I agree to permit Broward Lawyers Care to provide this information as required and also to reveal information that is otherwise a matter of public record. Broward Lawyers Care has advised me that they are not required to provide other information that is subject to attorney client privilege.
10. I understand this referral agreement and agree to be bound by it.
11. Everything I have told Legal Aid or Broward Lawyers Care about my case is true to the best of my knowledge.

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**Signature**

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**Date**

**LEGAL AID SERVICE OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC. - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

The following grievance procedure has been established to provide a remedy for applicants or clients who feel they have either been improperly denied assistance or have received ineffective assistance by the Program.

**Complaint for Denial of Assistance**

**Step One:** Initial determination of eligibility for program services shall be made by staff personnel. Each client denied services by the program shall be given a written notice stating reasons for denial.

**Step Two:** If the client feels that he or she has been wrongfully denied services by the program, then the client may request a review which shall be made by the supervising attorney or by the intake attorney.

**Step Three:** The applicant may appeal the decision of the attorney to the Executive Director or in his/her absence to the unit supervising attorney. Upon review, if the Executive Director or supervising attorney shall determine the applicant to be ineligible for services from the program, then the reasons for the rejection shall be provided to the applicant in writing.

**Step Four:** Final appeal may be had to the Eligibility Committee of the Board of Directors. The program staff shall, if requested, assist applicant in providing a written statement to this committee outlining the reasons for the appeal. The Committee shall meet and render its decision within fourteen (14) days from the date of initial rejection of the applicant. *THE APPLICANT HAS THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND HEARD WHEN THE ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETS TO CONSIDER APPLICANT'S APPEAL.*

**Complaint for Ineffective Service**

**Step One:** A client who is dissatisfied with the services received from the program or who feels that the services rendered have been ineffective, may file a complaint setting forth reasons which shall be reviewed directly by the Executive Director of the program, or the Deputy Director in the absence of the Executive Director.

**Step Two:** If requested by the client, a staff person not involved in the complaint shall be assigned to assist the client in drawing up the complaint.

**Step Three:** If the Executive Director or Supervising attorney is unable to satisfactorily resolve the client's complaint, then the client's complaint with a written summary of action already taken by the program, shall be referred to the Personnel Committee of the Board of Directors for final action. The client has the right to be present and heard when the Personnel Committee meets to discuss the complaint. A final decision shall be rendered within fourteen (14) days from the date that the Personnel Committee receives the complaint

**Applicant's Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY**

Based on information supplied by you on your sworn application, it has been determined that you are not eligible for the services of Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc., because:

1.  You are over our financial guidelines
2.  Type of Case
3.  Conflict of interest
4.  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

If you feel *you* have been unfairly denied our services, you have the right to have this determination reviewed. To start this review, please complete the Request for Review set out below and return it to our office.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Determination Made By: \_\_\_\_\_ Position with Program: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I feel that I have been unfairly denied the services of Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc., for the following reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby request review of the determination and a copy of the grievance procedure.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW OF DETERMINATION**

RE: \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed the above Determination of Eligibility, the Request for Review and have discussed the matter with, the abovementioned person and have made the following decision.

1.  I agree with the Determination of Eligibility
2.  I disagree with the Determination of Eligibility and, in my opinion, the above-mentioned person is eligible for our services.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Attorney