


# CIVIL INDIGENT LEGAL ASSISTANCE REFERENCE GUIDE

## NO COST / LOW COST CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

### Civil Law Center - Public Defender Service Corporation

 **Address:** MVP Commercial Building, 777 4 Suite 104 Sinajana, Guam 96910 (located in “L” shaped building across the street from the Sinajana Payless, Sinajana Mobil Gas Station, and the Sinajana 76 Gas Station)

 **Telephone Number:** 671-969-3131

 **Email Address:** [support@guamejc.org](mailto:support@guamejc.org)

 **Webpage:** [www.guammclc.org](http://www.guammclc.org)

### PROGRAM: CIVIL INDIGENT LEGAL AID AND REPRESENTATION PROGRAM

Civil Law Center – Public Defender Service Corporation is funded by local funds from the Government of Guam General Funds, specifically established pursuant to Guam law, 12 G.C.A. §11105, to ensure the Public Defender Service Corporation meets its mandates required under Public Defender Service Corporation Act in providing civil legal aid and representation to those indigent, low-to middle-income persons, that are eligible under the program requirements, that may include the income guidelines, as set forth and adopted by the Corporation through its Board of Trustees.

#### Eligibility:

- Income-Eligibility
  - Based on 200% of the Hawaii Poverty Guidelines; and
  - This income-eligibility will be waived for those who meet the Guam definition of senior citizens, which covers ages 55 – 59 years old. However, free legal services will be limited to the same list of services that are provided under EJC Program only. Any other civil legal services being requested by any individual will require that the income-eligibility is met.
- Must be a resident of Guam

#### Program Restrictions:

- The Corporation shall not accept fee-generating cases and shall give legal assistance in civil matters only to those who would otherwise not receive such assistance.
- There cannot be a conflict of interest applicable to the parties involved.

## Services Provided:

- Legal Guardianship Over a Minor
- Establishment of Paternity
- Guardian Ad Litem (“GAL”) court appointments in Juvenile Special Proceedings
- Guardian Ad Litem court appointments in other civil matters, as deemed necessary by the Court
- Last Will and Testament
- Living Wills
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Power of Attorney (Healthcare Directive)
- Right of Sepulcher/Power of Attorney (right of sepulcher)
- Public benefits appeals (GHURA, SNAP, Medicaid, MIP, TANF, FEMA)
- Landlord Tenant (**Tenant side only**)
- Advocacy
- Referrals to other agencies for other services

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## PROGRAM: THE ELDER JUSTICE CENTER (“EJC”) PROGRAM

EJC is funded by Title IIIB Older American Act of 1965, as amended, and is administered by the Department of Public Health and Social Services, Division of Senior Citizens.

### Eligibility:

- Age-eligibility – Must be 60 years of age or older; and
- Must be a resident of Guam

### Program Restrictions:

- There cannot be a conflict of interest applicable to the parties involved.

## Services Provided:

- Legal Guardianship Over a Minor
- Last Will and Testament
- Living Wills
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Power of Attorney (Healthcare Directive)
- Right of Sepulcher/Power of Attorney (right of sepulcher)
- Public benefits appeals (GHURA, SNAP, Medicaid, MIP, TANF, FEMA)
- Landlord Tenant (**Tenant side only**)
- Advocacy
- Referrals to other agencies for other services

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## PROGRAM: THE ADVOCACY CENTER PROGRAM

The Advocacy Center (“TAC”) program is partially supported by grants awarded through the Governor’s Community Outreach – Federal Programs Office (GCO-FPO) for the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice’s STOP Formula Grant Program.

### Eligibility:

- There is NO income-eligibility under this program;
- There is NO age-eligibility under this program;

- Must be a resident of Guam;
- Applicant is a victim of a crime such as family violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking and victim is in need of a Protective Order or Restraining Order; and
- Must meet the court criteria for obtaining a Protective Order/Restraining Order under Guam law.

### **Program Restrictions:**

- There cannot be a conflict of interest applicable to the parties involved.

### **Services Provided:**

- Protective Orders
- Safety Planning
- Advocacy
- Referrals to other agencies for other services

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## **PROGRAM: AT-RISK VETERANS**

(only provide services referred directly from WestCare Program)


### **Eligibility:**

- Must be directly referred to CLC from the WestCare Office who WestCare deemed as eligible under its At-Risk Veteran's for Homelessness Program
- Must be a Veteran living on Guam who is at-risk for homelessness

### **Services Provided:**

- Protective Orders
- Safety Planning
- Advocacy
- Referrals to other agencies for other services

# Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center

 **Address:** 434 W. O'Brien Drive, Suite 102, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

 **Telephone Number:** 671-477-9811/9812

 **Email Address:** [information@guamlsc.org](mailto:information@guamlsc.org)

 **Webpage:** [www.guamlegalservices.org](http://www.guamlegalservices.org)

In 1999, GLSC-DLC became the designated Protection and Advocacy Office for Guam. As such, GLSC DLC Disability Law Center (DLC) is Guam's Protection and Advocacy agency mandated to promote and protect the legal and human rights of individuals with physical and/or mental disability. The Guam Legal Services Corporation promotes, educates and advocates for equal rights and access to justice to underserved communities.

## PROTECTION & ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

### Eligibility (Applies to ALL P&L Programs):

- No income-eligibility
- Must be a resident of Guam
- A person must have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act; and
- The legal issue for which help is sought must be related to the disability.
- The issue must fall within certain priorities and may be limited by available resources, the existence of other programs that can address the applicant's issue, and the potential effect on the person's life, health, and safety.

### Program Restrictions (Applies to ALL P&A Programs/VOCA):

- There cannot be a conflict of interest applicable to the parties involved
- Clients are responsible for paying fees associated with their case (for example: court-filing fees, notice publication fees, and documents recording fees with government agencies). If a client is unable to pay these fees, GLSC can work with the client to determine if the fees can be waived.
- Does not represent individuals in criminal matters
- Does not take any matters involving monetary compensation
- Does not represent individuals who do not live on Guam
- For legal issues relating to disability rights violations and discrimination, individuals must have a disability, and the legal issue must be related to their disability

## PROGRAM: PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS (PAIMI)

Assists individuals who have been diagnosed with a mental illness or emotional impairment

### Services Provided:

- Monitors and investigates abuse and neglect in facilities and group homes that care for or treat individuals with mental illness.
- Provides representation at fair hearings for government benefits and adult legal guardianships.
- Legal advocacy for appropriate special education services and care and treatment in the least restrictive environment.

## **PROGRAM:** PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (PADD)

Assists individuals who have a developmental disability. A developmental disability is a life-long disability that manifests itself before age 22 and is attributed to mental and/or physical impairments.

### **Services Provided:**

- Legal advocacy for appropriate special education services and care and treatment in the least restrictive environment.
- Monitors and investigates abuse and neglect in facilities and group homes that care for or treat individuals with mental illness
- Provides representation at fair hearings for government benefits and adult legal guardianships.

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## **PROGRAM:** PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS (PAIR)

Assists individuals with disabilities who are not eligible for services under the PADD or PAIMI programs, such as those with physical disabilities acquired as an adult. Advocacy in regards to personal decision making powers and assisting in delegating these powers when appropriate.

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## **PROGRAM:** PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES (PAAT)

Individuals with disabilities requires use and access to technology devices and assistive technology services. Assists individuals with disabilities in accessing technology devices and assistive technology services through advocacy and legal representation.

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## **PROGRAM:** PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (PATBI)

Assists individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Provides information, referral and advocacy services to individuals who face a loss of legal rights as a direct result of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

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## **PROGRAM:** PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY (PABSS)

Assists beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) with issues related to securing or regaining gainful employment. Provides information and referral, consultation and legal representation when necessary. Advocacy related to the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Implementation Act (TWWIIA).

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## **PROGRAM:** STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES (REP PAYEE REVIEWS)

Conduct reviews on rep payee performance on behalf of the Social Security Administration (SSA). Provides oversight to rep payees and their services to beneficiaries as well as giving them support to better understand their role and responsibilities.

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## **PROGRAM:** STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR VOTING ACCESS (PAVA)

Eligible to Register to Vote on Guam, or a Registered Voter on Guam. Ensure that individuals with disabilities can have full participation in the electoral process. This includes registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places. Educational outreach and advocacy.

## **PROGRAM:** VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA)

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), under GLSC helps victims in the immediate aftermath of crime and continuing to support them as they rebuild their lives.

### **Eligibility:**

- Applicant is a victim of a crime such as sexual assault, stalking, harassment, and or human trafficking in need of a Protective Order or Restraining Order.
- Applicant is a victim of a crime such as sexual assault, stalking, harassment, and or human trafficking in need of a civil legal service directly related to their victimization.
- Must be a resident of Guam

### **Program Restrictions:**

- There cannot be a conflict of interest applicable to the parties involved.

### **Services Provided:**

- Order of Protection
- Restraining Orders

# Micronesian Legal Services

 **Address:** 238 Archbishop Flores Street, DNA Building, Suite 902, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

 **Telephone Number:** 671-969-5504/5604

 **Email Address:** [guam@mlscnet.org](mailto:guam@mlscnet.org)

 **Webpage:** [www.micronesianlegal.org](http://www.micronesianlegal.org)

The Micronesian Legal Services Corporation is a non-profit corporation established in 1970 to provide services to households with low income in Guam.

## Eligibility:

- Income-Eligibility (based on 150% of the Hawaii Poverty Guidelines with some flexibility to deviate over, and based on approval of the Executive Director on a case-by-case basis)
- Must be a resident of Guam

## Program Restrictions:

- Class actions
- Civil litigation where the client is incarcerated (administrative proceedings, like immigration, but cannot represent an incarcerated person in the Superior Court of Guam or District Court)
- Torts and other fee-generating cases (only if the client is rejected by three private attorneys first)
- Public housing evictions involving drug related criminal activity
- Abortion related litigation

## Services Provided:

- Minor Guardianship (uncontested)
- Divorce (uncontested)
- Custody (uncontested)
- Paternity
- Adoption
- Name Change
- Public benefits appeals (GHURA, SNAP, Medicaid, MIP, TANF, FEMA)
- Name corrections (on birth certificates, SS cards, etc.)
- Bankruptcy
- Landlord Tenant (**tenant side only**)
  - Housing Discrimination/FHA Violations
- Probate (uncontested)
- Social Security Benefits Appeals
- Immigration (MLSC can currently only assist COFA migrants and certain other documented immigrants)
  - U-Visas (Domestic Violence visa)
- Contractor Fraud
- Powers of Attorney
- Wills

- Note: This is not a completely exhaustive list, as MLSC can handle other civil case types. However, any other types of civil case that MLSC does take will be subject to LSC's main restrictions noted above.