

## ABOUT VLSP

VLSP provides legal advice and representation to low-income Monroe County residents with non-criminal legal problems. All legal work is performed by private attorneys who volunteer to help VLSP's clients. Clients are expected to pay for required court costs.



You may be eligible for legal services through VLSP if you live in Monroe County and have very limited income and assets. VLSP can only represent people whose income and assets are below our financial guidelines.



VLSP can help with a wide variety of non-criminal legal problems. All of the legal work is performed by private attorneys who volunteer to help VLSP's clients for no fee. In some areas, there are far more clients seeking help than there are volunteer attorneys available to help. In these areas, VLSP must limit its work to certain types of cases.

Walk-Ins Welcome  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Telesca Center for Justice  
One West Main Street, 5th Floor  
Rochester, NY 14614  
Phone: 585-232-3051  
Fax: 585-232-5103  
[www.vlsprochester.org](http://www.vlsprochester.org)

Legal Services  
For People with  
Limited Income and  
Assets



[www.vlsprochester.org](http://www.vlsprochester.org)  
Interpretype® available

## **VLSP handles cases in the following areas:**

### **Divorce**

VLSP handles divorces for people who have been victims of recent, serious physical abuse.

VLSP also runs a “do-it-yourself” divorce class for people seeking divorce who have no issues in dispute (e.g. child or spousal support, custody or visitation, rights to a residence or pension).

### **Nicki’s Hope**

The goal of Nicki’s Hope is to increase safety and economic self-sufficiency and reduce domestic violence by providing victims direct legal representation through pro bono attorneys.

### **Custody/Visitation**

VLSP operates a clinic in which volunteer attorneys give advice and/or help people complete Family Court Petitions for custody, visitation or guardianship and give instructions on filing those petitions with Family Court. Most parents get assigned counsel when they appear in Family Court.

### **Child Support**

VLSP represents petitioners for child support and custodial parents seeking to modify or enforce a child support order.

### **Unemployment Insurance**

VLSP represents claimants whose claims for unemployment insurance benefits have been turned down by the Department of Labor or challenged by the employer. VLSP handles these cases at the hearing level only.

### **Debt Problems**

At VLSP’s Debt Collection Advice Clinic, volunteer attorneys provide general advice to clients with problems such as garnishment, collection efforts, repossession, etc. Attorneys analyze debt situations and give self-help advice and some clients may also qualify to receive further help in bankruptcy or repossession defense.

### **Micro-Entrepreneur Program**

VLSP’s Micro-Entrepreneur Program provides legal advice to individuals who want to start or expand business in economically distressed neighborhoods in the City of Rochester.

### **Tenant Town Court Program**

VLSP assists unrepresented tenants with defending eviction proceedings in the Irondequoit Town Court. Volunteer attorneys attempt to negotiate appropriate settlements with landlords.

### **Employment**

VLSP helps when legal problems prevent a person from getting or keeping employment. Examples include problems with LPN licenses, foster care licenses, child abuse records, driver’s license lost because of unpaid judgment or child support. We cannot help if the license is suspended because of fines or penalties.

### **Consumer Problems**

VLSP helps with problems like “lemon” cars, liens on bank accounts, unfair contracts, insurance coverage and claims, student loans, rent-to-own, etc.

### **Seventh Judicial District Court Help Center**

99 Exchange Blvd, Room 525, Rochester NY 14614

In collaboration with VLSP, the Court Help Center will provide the following:

- Help for people unrepresented in their legal matters
- Education for the public about the role and function of the courts
- Information to litigants and the public about alternatives to civil litigation
- Networking with community and social service agencies to help ensure access to justice

### **Federal Pro Se Assistance Program**

100 State Street, Room 2160  
Rochester, NY 14614

The Pro Se Assistance Program provides free **limited assistance** to unrepresented litigants in civil matters pending in the U.S District Court Western District of New York, Rochester Division.

The Pro Se Assistance Program provides:

- information about federal court procedures and the law;
- advice about preparing pleadings, motions, or other court documents
- advice about discovery and motion practice
- referrals to other services, if appropriate



### **Future Care Planning for Families Living with HIV/AIDS or other serious illnesses**

### **Standby Guardianship/Guardianship**

For parents with HIV/AIDS or other serious illnesses, VLSP can help with planning for the future care of children. VLSP can also help family members and others who are taking care of children to obtain guardianship.

### **Wills, Powers of Attorney and Health Care Proxies for people with HIV/AIDS or other serious illnesses.**

For more information on the above services call:

**Ann Williams, Esq. at 585-295-5708**

### **Other Areas Where VLSP May Help**

- Name changes
- Liens on bank accounts
- Adoption
- Habitat for Humanity closings
- Foreclosure, land contracts
- Tax problems—IRS
- Record expungement
- Estate administration for estates of limited value
- Tort defense-for defendants only, sued for personal injury or property damage
- Landlord-tenant problems other than eviction
- Real Estate, e.g. deed transfers
- Immigration
- Pension

### **VLSP does not handle:**

- Criminal matters
- Fee generating cases, such as suing for personal injury