

This brochure contains important information about the Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging Legal Services Program! Please read it carefully.



RECEIVING LEGAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE ARMSTRONG COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

In order to qualify for Legal Services, you must be an Armstrong County resident 60 years of age or older, you must be ineligible for alternate assistance, and your legal services concern must be featured on our list of allowable legal services tasks.

QUESTION:

Once I have a legal services authorization form from the Agency on Aging, is the Agency's attorney required to follow through with legal action for me?

ANSWER:

The Armstrong Co. Agency on Aging will respect the attorney's opinion on whether a case is appropriate for our legal services program, whether it is of benefit, or of sufficient benefit, to the client to merit service costs to the Agency.

CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY:

When your case is closed with the attorney, the Area Agency on Aging will forward a satisfaction survey to you inquiring about your legal services received. (Although the Agency on Aging does not charge for its legal services, donations are accepted and can be returned to the Agency on Aging with the satisfaction survey.)

If you have any further questions about the referral procedure, etc., feel free to contact the Agency at (724)548-3290 or toll free at (800)368-1066.

**ARMSTRONG COUNTY
AREA AGENCY ON AGING
125 QUEEN STREET
KITTINGING, PA 16201**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Patricia L. Kirkpatrick
Richard L. Fink
James V. Scahill**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Janet D. Talerico

The Armstrong Co. Area Agency on Aging is funded in part by the Penna. Department of Aging and the County Board of Commissioners.

02/04

ALLOWABLE LEGAL SERVICES TASKS:

- *Wills
- *Living Wills
- *Powers of Attorney
- *Tenant/Landlord Relations
Where Client is Tenant
- *Financial Benefit Applications and Appeals to Include Filing for Disability.
- *Bankruptcy
- *Utility Concerns
- *Consumer Problems Through Arbitration—Concerns of \$400 or More But Under \$25,000. (Civil litigation will not be authorized.)
- *Civil Rights
- *Matters Concerning Relationships with others in Household
- *Grandparent's Rights
- *Protection from Abuse Orders, if Assistance Not Available Through Any Other Source.



Enclosed with this brochure is your legal services authorization form. The authorization form is your proof that you have been determined eligible to receive legal assistance through our contracted attorneys. When we authorize legal services, this means that our Agency will pay our attorney's hourly rate to assist you with the designated legal services issue. Any cost for which you would be responsible will be discussed with you by the attorney. The authorization form is presented to our attorney by you, the client, so that the attorney knows that our Agency has authorized your service, and specifically for what task. Unless you present the authorization form to the attorney on your first visit to him or her, the Armstrong County Agency on Aging cannot pay for the service you receive.

Legal Services at the Armstrong Co. Agency on Aging are provided by its contracted legal firm:

Preston Younkins
The Old Library
200 N. Jefferson Street
Kittanning, PA 16201
(724)548-8166

For client convenience, the attorney maintains limited hours at a satellite office:

502 Market Street
Freeport, PA 16229

QUESTION:

Who makes the legal services appointment with the attorney?

ANSWER:

You, the client, are responsible for contacting the attorney's office to schedule your appointment. It is necessary that you schedule an appointment, since walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Merely call the Kittanning office at (724)548-8166 to make an appointment, even if you wish to utilize the satellite office.

QUESTION:

Which attorney do I contact?

ANSWER:

Under our program, service can only be provided by our contracted attorney. We cannot provide or pay for service from any other firm.



QUESTION:

What kinds of legal services charges would I as a client be responsible for?

ANSWER:

The Agency pays our attorney's hourly rate. The Agency does not pay for any expenses necessary for having professionals perform evaluations, costs of serving subpoenas, costs of obtaining medical records, filing fees, photocopying fees, etc. if they would be necessary to your case. Most cases do not involve these kinds of costs. If your case will involve a cost to you, the attorney will explain this to you in advance.

QUESTION:

My authorization states that in my case, the Agency has authorized "consultation only". What does this mean?

ANSWER:

It means that in your particular case the Agency has authorized payment for an initial consultation only, so that you can be advised of your options. The attorney will also be able to learn details about your situation, so that in some cases he may be able to help the Agency on Aging decide whether or not we can authorize additional legal services necessary for resolution of your problem.

QUESTION:

There is an expiration date listed on my authorization. What does this mean?

ANSWER:

It means that you have until that specified expiration date to contact our attorney's office to schedule your first appointment. (Establishing this date is useful to us in planning our budget.) When you receive your legal services authorization, you should call as soon as possible to make your appointment.

QUESTION:

Under what circumstances should I recontact the Agency on Aging concerning Legal Services?

ANSWER:

There is no need for you to recontact the Agency on Aging staff concerning your legal services. If you should have a concern about your attorney, or a question concerning how our Legal Services Program works, by all means, call us. However, once the attorney accepts your case, any information about or questions concerning the legal services issue, should be directed to the attorney to avoid any possible confusion. Your attorney will be the only Agency-affiliated person who can inform you, advise you, or take legal action on your case.

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