

MISSION

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc. is a nonprofit charitable organization established to provide free, high quality legal assistance in many types of civil (non-criminal) matters of critical importance to residents of the Shenandoah Valley and Roanoke Valley who would otherwise be unable to obtain such services due to their poverty. This mission is premised on the recognition that the American ideal of "Equal Justice for All" citizens can be achieved only if we provide the poor meaningful access to our judicial system.

STAFF

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc. employs a small staff of licensed attorneys, paralegals and support staff in offices located in Winchester, Harrisonburg, Lexington, and Roanoke. Our legal staff is supplemented by the donated services of over 450 private attorneys throughout the Shenandoah Valley and Roanoke Valley who have agreed to handle cases we refer to them on a *pro bono* basis, without charge.

OUR SERVICES

The most common legal problems handled by Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc. include family disputes (for example, domestic violence, divorce), problems dealing with debts and bankruptcy, housing and landlord-tenant disputes, eligibility for various government benefits (such as food stamps, TANF, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits), access to health care (for example, issues involving Medicaid and Medicare), consumer disputes, and issues affecting seniors (such as exploitation and problems with nursing homes).

We do not handle criminal matters, traffic violations, personal injuries or malpractice cases and other cases outside of our priorities. We reserve the right to decline representation in a particular matter based on priorities established by our Board of Directors, existing caseloads, ethical considerations, and the merits of the case itself.

Our legal assistance ranges from simple advice or brief service to ongoing representation in negotiations and litigation in state and federal courts and administrative agencies, depending on the needs of the client, the type of case, and available resources.

ELIGIBILITY

Financial eligibility for our services is based primarily on the number of persons in the applicant's household, the household's income and resources, as well as the type of case involved. BRLS does not use a sliding fee scale. If the applicant is eligible, the services are free. If the applicant is "over-income," then no services can be

provided. Because of financial support we receive from the various Area Agencies on Aging within our service area, we are able to assist some senior citizens who might not otherwise qualify for our services.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for our services, find the office that serves your county or city on the chart below and call during that office's intake hours. If you are unsure which office to call, you may call 1-866-534-5243* and you will be automatically routed to the legal aid office that serves your area.

WINCHESTER OFFICE

Serves the City of Winchester and the counties of Clarke, Frederick, northern Shenandoah, and Warren. To apply for assistance, contact the office between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays:

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 436
303 S. Loudoun Street, Suite D
Winchester, VA 22604
(540) 662-5021
(800) 678-5021*

LEXINGTON OFFICE

Serves the cities of Buena Vista, Covington, and Lexington, and the counties of Alleghany, Bath, and Rockbridge. To apply for assistance, contact the office between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday:

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.
215 South Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-7334
(866) 534-5243*

HARRISONBURG OFFICE

Serves the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro and the counties of Augusta, Highland, Page, Rockingham and southern Shenandoah. To apply for assistance, contact the office between 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday:

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.
P. O. Box 551
204 N. High Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22803
(540) 433-1830
(800) 237-0141*

ROANOKE OFFICE

Serves the cities of Bedford, Roanoke, and Salem, and the counties of Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke. To apply for assistance, contact the office between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon Monday through Friday:

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.
132 Campbell Ave., SW
Suite 300
Roanoke, VA 24011
(540) 344-2080
(866) 534-5243*

*toll free for applicants and clients