



Vermont Legal Aid provides free civil legal services to Vermont residents.

We offer practical tools, forms and legal information on our [VTLawHelp.org](https://vtlawhelp.org) website. Our staff help individual Vermonters and provide systemic advocacy. They are grouped into 11 projects:

Disability Law Project: Helps people with civil legal problems related to their disability. We help with legal issues such as abuse, neglect and exploitation; access to assistive technology; access to health care and specialized (“waiver”) services; access to transportation; disability discrimination; education; and guardianships and alternatives like Supported Decision Making.

Director: Rachel Seelig, rseelig@vtlegalaid.org, 802-383-2217

Elder Law Project: Helps seniors with housing problems, state and federal benefits like unemployment benefits, Social Security, 3SquaresVT food help, long-term Medicaid planning, elder abuse, and financial exploitation and neglect. We also represent Vermonters who get both Medicare and Medicaid and improve the lives of thousands of seniors by bringing cases to ensure Medicare pays for their home health, durable medical equipment, nursing care, and prescription drugs.

Director: Michael Benvenuto, mbenvenuto@vtlegalaid.org, 802-383-2224

Health Care Advocate Project: Helps Vermonters with problems and questions related to health care services and health insurance. We often help people: get onto insurance plans, sort out problems, and get involved when an insurance company improperly denies medical treatment.

Director: Mike Fisher, mfisher@vtlegalaid.org, 802-383-2226

Homeowner Legal Assistance Project: Provides legal services to Vermont homeowners who are at risk of losing their housing due to financial hardship. We give quick advice to Vermont homeowners who have past-due mortgage payments, property taxes, utility bills, association fees, or insurance payments at their primary residence. We represent homeowners in cases of foreclosure and mobile home “replevin” (a type of foreclosure). We advocate for homeowners to get financial help through the state’s Homeowner Assistance Program (VHAP).

Director: Grace Pazdan, gpazdan@vtlegalaid.org, 802- 839-1331

Housing Discrimination Law Project: Works to stop housing discrimination and to protect Vermonters' right to choose where they live. We provide help, advice and limited legal services to people who believe they may have been discriminated against. We conduct housing discrimination investigations to document the presence of housing discrimination in our communities, and we educate the public about housing discrimination practices and how they harm everyone.

Director: Rachel Batterson, rbatterson@vtlegalaid.org, 802-383-2231

Housing for Everyone Law Project: Helps tenants get Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Program (VERAP), Reach Up Emergency Rental Assistance (RUERA), and utility benefits. This project also defends tenants facing eviction cases in court.

Director: Jean Murray, jmurray@vtlegalaid.org, 802-839-1311

Medical-Legal Partnership Project: Helps Vermonters with legal needs that may harm their health. We have partnerships with several Vermont medical providers. We give advice and represent Vermonters in a wide variety of areas: expungement of criminal records, evictions and habitability in rental housing, emergency housing for people without a home, custody and visitation, public benefits, and driver's license reinstatement. We train and support our partners.

Director: Rebecca Plummer, rplummer@vtlegalaid.org, 802-495-0459

Mental Health Law Project: Represents Vermonters in involuntary mental health treatment and/or medication cases, both in hospitals and in outpatient settings, to ensure that their rights and liberty are protected.

Director: Jack McCullough, jmccullough@vtlegalaid.org, 802-241-3222

Poverty Law Project: Represents low-income Vermonters with legal problems and we advocate for system change. We believe that housing is a human right. We advocate for that right, and we help tenants stay in their homes. We work to improve the quality of Vermonters' homes by enforcing the rental housing code. We represent people who need income support from Reach Up, 3 Squares, Social Security, and Unemployment Insurance.

Director: Sandra Paritz, sparitz@vtlegalaid.org, 802-223-6377

Vermont Long-Term Care Ombudsman Project: Protects the health, welfare and rights of people who live in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other group homes for adults who need care. We also help people who receive long-term care in their homes through Choices for Care (CFC). We work to empower our clients and improve their quality of life. We resolve individual concerns about long-term care. We also educate people about their rights.

Director: Kaili Kuiper, kkuiper@vtlegalaid.org, 800-789-4195

Victim's Rights Project: Helps survivors of crime with legal issues related to the crime they experienced. Our priorities focus on helping survivors with their physical and financial security. We address a wide variety of issues, including: relief from abuse, orders against stalking and sexual assault, vulnerable adult protection orders, protecting victims' rights in criminal cases, family law advice, evictions, and any legal issue directly related to the client's victimization.

Director: Laura Bierley, lbierley@vtlegalaid.org, 802-383-2207