



MASHPEE HUMAN SERVICES



March, 2024 Highlight South Coastal Counties Legal Services

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc. provides free legal services to low-income and older residents of Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod & Islands in the areas listed below:

Public Benefits

Advocates at SCCLS can help clients seeking Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability (SSDI), unemployment, emergency or transitional assistance, MassHealth and SNAP (Food Stamp) benefits.

Family Law

SCCLS helps low-income families achieve family and economic stability by offering legal advice and/or representation in divorce, child custody and support, and abuse prevention cases, primarily to those experiencing domestic or sexual violence.

Housing

We help tenants facing eviction, termination of a rent subsidy, or bad housing conditions, people experiencing denials of admission to public or subsidized housing, homeowners threatened with foreclosure, and others seeking help to overcome barriers to safe, affordable housing.

Education

We work to ensure that low-income students are afforded the quality education to which they are entitled. This can mean advocating for entitlements to special education services and supports, representing students who are facing exclusion from their education, and addressing the underlying policies and practices that interfere with students remaining in school and having the opportunity to learn.

Immigration

Our subsidiary, Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts, offers legal representation to individuals in need of immigration assistance on a wide range of cases throughout our service area. The immigration team helps survivors of domestic or sexual violence, victims of crime and human trafficking, and those eligible for asylum, temporary protected status, or special immigrant juvenile status achieve the humanitarian-based relief to which they are entitled. We also represent individuals in family-based immigration cases, removal proceedings, and other types of immigration petitions. The immigration team regularly provides trainings, community outreach and education, and community clinics, and engages in systemic advocacy on behalf of our client communities.

Senior Law Project

Our Senior and Elder Law Projects provide legal assistance to individuals age 60 and older who are economically or socially disadvantaged. Priority is given to income maintenance issues, health care, long-term care, nutrition, housing, utilities, protective services, defense of guardianship, abuse, neglect, and age discrimination.

Consumer Debt

SCCLS hosts educational clinics at which clients struggling with consumer debt can obtain the information and advice they need to avoid harassment from creditors, understand protections afforded by bankruptcy and present defenses in debt collection cases. In limited situations, SCCLS also can help eligible clients discharge debt through bankruptcy proceedings.

Contact

The best number for anyone seeking our services to call is 800-244-9023. At our website, www.sccls.org, people can make an on line inquiry seeking services and they will receive a call back from our intake staff. There are also appointments at the Senior Center.

Civil Legal Aid for Victims of Crime

SCCLS has special funding from the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) to help victims of crime with civil matters relating to the crime. Victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and other crimes are often left with significant civil legal needs beyond those addressed by the criminal justice system. If you are a victim of crime which is connected, directly or indirectly, to the civil legal matter for which you are seeking assistance, we may be able to help.

Human Services Resources

If you are experiencing an acute mental health crisis, please call 911 or go to your nearest Hospital Emergency Room for assistance.

*988 Suicide Hotline: Call or Text 988 If you or anyone you know is having thoughts of suicide

Mental Health Crisis: *Bay Cove Human Services-Mobile Crisis Intervention serving all Cape Cod Communities, Call 833-229-2683

Substance Use Helpline:1-800-972-0590

Maternal Child Helpline:call or text: 833-852-6262