

# PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES

# Equal Access to Justice

### Free Legal Advice

Types of Legal cases we may help with:

- Public Benefits (Social Security disability, SSI, SNAP/Food Stamps, Medicaid, TANF, etc.)
- Housing (eviction, foreclosure, utilities, housing discrimination)
- Domestic violence (orders of protection and other legal services for victims)
- Other issues (such as debt/bankruptcy, driver's license suspension, sealing/expungement of court records)

No criminal, traffic, or personal injury cases

Call (309) 674-9831

To apply for help

If you qualify, an attorney will give you legal advice by phone, and we may assign your case to one of our offices for additional services.

**Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.** is a non-profit civil legal aid organization that provides free civil legal services to the poor, elderly, and people with disabilities. We do not accept criminal defense, traffic, personal injury or immigration cases.

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday www.pslegal.org







#### **LOCAL OFFICES**

#### **Bloomington**

Serving Livingston, McLean and Woodford Counties Phone 309.827.5021 • Toll Free 800.874.2536

#### Galesburg

Serving Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren Counties

Phone 309.343.2141 • Toll Free 800.331.0617

#### Joliet

Serving Grundy and Will Counties
Phone 815.727.5123 • Toll Free 877.315.4472

#### Kankakee

Serving Iroquois and Kankakee Counties
Phone 815.935.2750 • Toll Free 800.346.2864

#### McHenry

Serving McHenry County
Phone 815.344.9113 • Toll Free 800.942.3940

#### Ottawa

Serving Bureau, La Salle and Putnam Counties Phone 815,434,5903 • Toll Free 800.892,7888

#### Peoria

Serving Fulton, Marshall, Peoria, Stark and Tazewell Counties
Phone 309.674.9831 • Toll Free 800.322.2280

Services, Inc. is to ensure equal access to justice and fair treatment under the law by providing legal advice and representation, advocacy, education, and outreach that serve to protect basic human needs and enforce or hold rights.

The mission of Prairie State Legal

#### **Rockford**

Serving Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties Phone 815.965.2902 • Toll Free 800.892.2985

#### Rock Island

Serving Henry, Lee, Rock Island and Whiteside Counties Phone 309.794.1328 • Toll Free 800.322.9804

#### St. Charles

Serving DeKalb, Kane and Kendall Counties
Phone 630-232-9415 • Toll Free 800-942-4612

#### Waukegan

Serving Lake County
Phone 847.662.6925 • Toll Free 800.942.3940

#### Wheator

Serving DuPage County
Phone 630.690.2130 • Toll Free 800.690.2130

If your legal issue is in one of the counties listed above, please contact your local Prairie State office.

#### Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. Administrative Office

303 North Main Street, Suite 600 Rockford, IL 61101 • www.pslegal.org Phone 815.965.2134 • Fax 815.965.1081 Brindamos ayuda legal gratuita a clientes elegibles en cualquier idioma.

Udostępniamy bezpłatną pomoc prawną dla kwalifikujących się klientów w dowolnym języku:

> 我们为合资格客户提供任何语 言的免费法律援助。

Kami ay nagbibigay ng libreng tulong sa karapat-dapat na kliyente sa anumang wika...

نُوفَر المساعدة القانونية مجانًا لعمائننا المؤ هلين بكل اللغات



### Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. Administrative Office

303 North Main Street, Suite 600 Rockford, IL 61101 • www.pslegal.org Phone 815.965.2134 • Fax 815.965.1081

For more information, visit our website at www.pslegal.org.

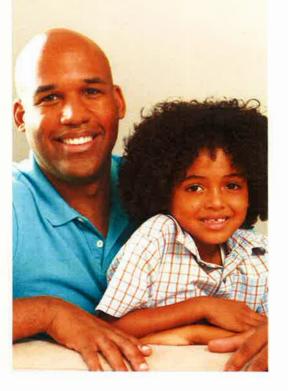






## Prairie State Legal Services

Changing lives, one client at a time



### Prairie State Legal Services – Equal Access to Justice

## What is Prairie State Legal Services?

Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. is a nonprofit law firm that provides civil legal aid at no fee to the poor, elderly, and people with disabilities. Prairie State has 12 offices serving 36 counties throughout Northern and Central Illinois, except Cook County. The offices are staffed by full-time attorneys, many with well over ten years of legal experience and some with more than 25 years of experience.

Prairie State focuses services on legal problems that impact the ability of our clients to meet their basic human needs, including physical safety, access to health care, adequate housing, and similar needs.

"I was so happy to find someone to help me with my problem and [Prairie State] was right there to help."





#### Who is eligible?

To be eligible for help from Prairie State Legal Services, clients must meet financial eligibility guidelines. Generally, a client is eligible if his or her household income is less than 125% of the federal poverty level. In some cases, household expenses are considered, and a client with a household income up to 200% of the federal poverty level may qualify. Special grants also provide for expanded financial eligibility for the elderly, people with HIV/AIDS, or people with severe disabilities.

### What types of cases can Prairie State handle?

- Protect people from domestic violence.
- Help people avoid losing their homes in evictions, mortgage foreclosures, and other housing matters.
- Help people get and keep utility services and public benefits (like SSI, TANF, Medical Assistance, and Food Stamps) to meet their basic human needs.

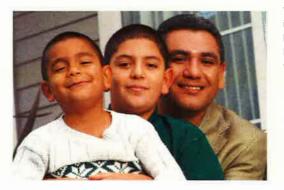
- Help people with disabilities get and keep appropriate education, housing, and other services.
- Protect people age 60 and over from physical or financial abuse, help them get medical care and community-based assistance, and help them with debt/consumer-related issues, as well as advanced directives.

Prairie State may be able to provide legal help or advice on many other areas of civil law. Please contact the Prairie State Legal Services office serving your area for more information.

Prairie State does not represent clients in criminal, traffic, or personal injury cases.

#### **How to contact Prairie State**

Applicants for Legal Services: People with legal problems that endanger their basic human needs should contact their local office of Prairie State. We recommend visiting the Prairie State website (www.pslegal.org) to learn more about the available services and to apply online. We also recommend checking www.lllinoislegalaid.org for legal information. Services and operating hours vary by office.





"[Prairie State] was there for me when I didn't think that anyone cared. They were great."

People with Special Needs: Prairie State works hard to be accessible to people with disabilities, language barriers, or other communication barriers. Service providers can contact staff attorneys in their local Prairie State office to refer people with special needs. Prairie State will arrange for interpreters as needed. All offices are accessible to people with disabilities.

Supporters of Prairie State: Prairie State is able to provide the critical legal aid needed by low-income people in the community without charge because of financial support from individuals, businesses, and various grants. Volunteers working within our offices or accepting referrals of cases help us serve those in need. Individuals who are interested in volunteering with Prairie State or in offering financial support may contact Prairie State's Administrative Office or their local office.