

Legal Resources

1. Volunteer Lawyer Program

41 Sharpe Drive, #4408
Cranston, RI 02920
(401) 421-7758

The Rhode Island Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer Program (VLP), funded through a grant from Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. and the Rhode Island Bar Foundation, provides pro bono (free) legal services to qualified low-income Rhode Islanders. Participating attorneys provide legal assistance, at no charge. The client's income must qualify under federally regulated guidelines to receive pro bono assistance, and the case must fall under one of the areas of law handled by the VLP. Clients may be responsible for filing fees, court costs and other out-of-pocket expenses. For information, telephone: (401) 421-7758 or 1-800-339-7758 or by email jellis@ribar.com.

2. Rhode Island Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service

41 Sharpe Drive
Cranston, RI 02920
(401) 421-7799 or 401-521-5040

Lawyer Referral Service

As noted, the Rhode Island Bar Association has a Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) that will refer you to competent and reliable lawyers. Under the LRS plan, a lawyer will consult with you, up to a half hour, for free. If additional legal work is recommended, it is your decision to continue. At this point, it is appropriate for you to discuss the lawyer's fees.

Reduced fee and legal assistance is available for those who qualify under federally regulated income guidelines. If your initial contact cannot handle your problem, you may request an additional referral. For further information, contact the Lawyer Referral Service by telephone: (401) 421-7799.

Lawyer Referral Service for the Elderly

Everyone aged 60 or older is eligible for a free, half-hour consultation with an attorney. In many communities, this Rhode Island Bar Association program, funded by the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs and Rhode Island Bar Foundation, holds legal clinics at senior organizations or Ask A Lawyer programs designed to provide you with information concerning relatively simple matters. For those who qualify under federally regulated guidelines, the elderly client may be eligible for pro bono assistance for certain areas of law. For immediate legal information, you may be referred to an attorney through the Lawyer Referral Service for the Elderly, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., by telephone: (401) 521-5040 or by email eking@ribar.com.