

This brochure is provided by the Mobile Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP), a non-profit organization. Organized in 1987, the VLP consists of approximately 650 local attorneys who donate their time to provide free legal assistance to persons who would not otherwise be able to obtain such help.

The lawyers of Mobile believe that everyone should have access to the legal system, regardless of financial status.

The VLP is only able to help persons who meet certain financial conditions, and assistance is provided only in certain kinds of civil (not criminal) matters. If you do not meet the requirements for VLP assistance, there are several other options that may be available to you. The VLP and some of these other programs are described in this brochure.



*If you need legal help and cannot afford it, there are options that may help you to get the aid you need. Please call the Volunteer Lawyers Program at (251) 438-1102, and let us help you find the assistance that is right for you.*



Mobile Bar Association

## Volunteer Lawyers Program

56 St. Joseph Street, Suite 312

Mobile, Alabama 36602

(251) 438-1102 • Fax (251) 438-1982

[www.vlpmobile.org](http://www.vlpmobile.org) • [info@vlpmobile.org](mailto:info@vlpmobile.org)

# Need a Lawyer?

The VLP is funded by

- The Mobile Bar Foundation
- United Way of Southwest Alabama
- Legal Services Alabama
- The Alabama Law Foundation
- Mobile County Commission
- Alabama Civil Justice Foundation
- The generosity of the Mobile legal community



**Legal Help for  
Low-Income Clients**

## Mobile Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program



Volunteer attorneys donate their time to provide legal services in certain civil (not criminal) matters to residents of Mobile County. This program is designed to help persons who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. To qualify, you must have income below a certain level and not own too much property. If you think you might qualify, please call to see if you meet these and certain other requirements. Conferences with a lawyer are by appointment only. Although the attorney time is free, you will be responsible for any out-of-pocket costs such as filing fees.

The kinds of cases normally accepted are:

- Adoption by agreement
- Paternity/legitimation by agreement
- Credit access and debt collection
- Change of custody by agreement
- Visitation enforcement (with prior court order)
- Power of attorney
- Child support modifications
- Guardianship and conservatorship
- Wills, living wills, and small estates
- Advice before being sued (for example: car repairs, landlord/tenant problems, store-bought items, loans)
- Collection of judgments (under \$3000)
- Wage claims (under \$1000)
- Name changes (minor and adult)
- Contracts and warranties
- Deeds and home ownership issues
- Enforcement of worker's compensation (under \$1000 or for medical expenses)
- Uncontested divorce by agreement
- Enforcement of court order from divorce involving children (excluding child support)

If you have a legal issue that is not listed, please call the VLP to find out if we can help you.

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## Legal Services Alabama



If you live in Mobile, Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Monroe, or Washington County, you may qualify for help from Legal Services Alabama. LSA is a state-wide, non-profit law firm that provides free legal assistance in certain civil matters to people who have limited income, do not own too much property, and meet certain other requirements. Conferences with a lawyer are by appointment only.

LSA may be able to help with the following kinds of matters:

- Protection From Abuse (PFA) order due to recent abuse
- Divorce with domestic violence or other issues
- Custody modification post-divorce
- Eviction defense
- Private foreclosure defense
- Garnishment defense
- Repossession defense
- Utility (electricity, gas, and water) termination
- Wrongful termination
- Unemployment compensation
- Bankruptcy (Chapter 7 and Chapter 13) as a way of solving problems with garnishments, multiple suits, and threatened loss of housing
- Public benefits (Family Assistance, Food Stamps, Medicaid appeals)
- Social Security and SSI cessation appeals
- Social Security and SSI overpayment appeals

Please note, LSA can only provide limited assistance in some types of cases. Call LSA to find out if it can help you.

### Legal Services Alabama (LSA)

#### Mobile Regional Office

107 St. Francis Street, Suite 2104

Mobile, AL 36602

(877) 393-2333 (toll-free number for new clients)

(251) 433-6560 (local office number for existing clients)

[www.alabamalegalservices.org](http://www.alabamalegalservices.org)

For information about many legal topics and do-it-yourself forms, go to [www.alabamalegalhelp.org](http://www.alabamalegalhelp.org).

## Lawyer Referral Service



If you don't meet the requirements for help from the Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) or Legal Services Alabama (LSA), it can be hard to know where to find an attorney. The Lawyer Referral Service of the Mobile Bar Association can give you the name of a lawyer who handles your kind of case. For a small fee, you can talk to that lawyer about your problem. After that consultation, any other legal work (and the fees for that work) will be a matter for the attorney and you to agree upon.

Lawyer Referral Service  
Mobile Bar Association  
(251) 433-1032

*\$15 fee for 30 minute  
consultation*

## Small Claims Court



You may not need a lawyer if you are trying to collect money or property from someone and the amount is less than \$3000. You can file a claim in Small Claims Court without an attorney. The filing fee is based on the amount of your claim. In order to file, you must have the name and address of the person from whom you are claiming the money or property. The clerk's office has the forms for filing suit.

Small Claims Court  
205 Government Street (Government Plaza)  
Mobile, Alabama 36602

Clerk's Office: 3rd floor on the Government St. side • (251) 574-8526