



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



FREE AND LOW COST LEGAL AND ADVOCATE SERVICES

Introduction

A variety of free and low-cost legal services and advocate services are available to assist parent(s), guardians, and students with disabilities in resolving disputes with local education agencies over the provision of special education services. This listing is not an exhaustive representation of all legal and advocate service options available throughout the state of New Jersey. Inclusion on this listing does not constitute an endorsement by the New Jersey Department of Education. The nature and extent of the services are determined by the parent(s), guardians, student, and the agency or advocate. Please refer to the organization's website for further details and the appropriate means of contact.

Legal Services

Advocates for Children of New Jersey

35 Halsey Street

Newark, NJ, 07102

973.643.3876

Website: acnj.org

Email: advocates@acnj.org

Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) is a state-wide independent child advocacy organization whose mission is to ensure that children grow up safe, healthy, and educated. Among its programs, the Kidlaw Resource Center provides legal consultation and assistance for school related issues. Services include attendance at school meetings and state mediations for English and Spanish-Speaking families. ACNJ offers pro bono (free) services to families with a net income of less than 300% of the federal poverty level. Additionally, services are available on a flat fee ("low bono") basis for families who are not eligible for pro bono assistance. ACNJ also conducts education-related workshops and provides written material in both English and Spanish.

Community Health Law Project

185 Valley Street

South Orange, NJ 07079

Phone: 973.275.1175

Fax: 973.275.5210

TTY: 973.275.1721

Website: chlp.org

Email: chlpinfo@chlp.org

Community Health Law Project (CHLP) is a statewide not-for-profit advocacy and legal service organization which provides legal representation and advocacy services, training, education, and related activities to persons with disabilities and chronic health conditions. There are five direct service offices located in Bloomfield, Elizabeth, Neptune, Hamilton, and Westmont, with satellite offices located in Toms River, Mt. Holy, and Galloway.

North Jersey Main Office

650 Bloomfield Ave
Suite 210
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
Phone: 973.680.5599
Fax: 973.680.1488
TTY: 973.680.1116
Email: Bloomfield@chlp.org

East Jersey Main Office

65 Jefferson Ave
Suite 402
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
Phone: 908.355.8282
Fax: 908.355.3724
TTY: 908.355.3369
Elizabeth@chlp.org

Shore Area Main Office

3301 Rt. 66
Bldg C, Suite 130
Neptune, NJ 07753
Phone: 732.380.1012
Fax: 732.380.1015
Email: Neptune@chlp.org

Shore Area Satellite Office

250 Washington Street
Suite 5
Toms River, NJ 08753
Phone: 732.349.6714
Fax: 732.349.6935

Central Jersey Main Office

3635 Quakerbridge Road
Suite 14
Hamilton, NJ 08619
Phone: 609.392.5553
Fax/TTY: 609.392.5369
Email: Trenton@chlp.org

Central Jersey Satellite Office

4 Commerce Place
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060
Phone: 609.261.8596
Fax: 609.261.8596

South Jersey Main Office

216 Haddon Ave
Suite 703
Westmont, NJ 08108
Phone/TTY: 856.858.9500
Fax: 856.226.7307
Email: Collingswood@chlp.org

South Jersey Satellite Office

160 South Pitney Road
Galloway, NJ 08205
Phone: 856.858.9500

Disability Rights New Jersey

210 South Broad Street
3rd Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608
NJ Phone: 800.922.7233
Voice: 609.292.9742
TTY: 609.633.7106
Fax: 609.777.0187
Website: disabilityrightsnj.org
Email: advocate@disabilityrightsnj.org

Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) is a federally funded, non-profit organization that advocates for individuals with disabilities across the State of New Jersey and provides free legal representation to students with disabilities. The level of legal representation is determined by

DRNJ's priorities and income eligibility criteria. Legal representation can range from technical advice to representation in mediation, due process, and complaint investigations. DRNJ also empowers students with disabilities and their families by providing training and self-advocacy materials on special education laws including the rights of students and parents as well as the responsibilities of schools.

Education and Health Law Clinic

Rutgers Law School-Newark

123 Washington Street

Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: 973.353.3218

Website: <https://law.rutgers.edu/education-and-health-law-clinic>

The Education and Health Law Clinic at Rutgers' Law School provides free and legal representation to low-income parents of students with disabilities in special education, early intervention, and some school discipline matters. Law students provide these legal services under the supervision of a licensed attorney. Due to limited capacity, full legal representation can only be provided to a small number of families.

Education Law Center, Inc.

60 Park Place

Suite 300

Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: 973.624.1815

Fax: 973.624.7339

Website: edlawcenter.org

Email: elc@edlawcenter.org

Education Law Center, Inc. (ELC) is a nonprofit organization working in New Jersey and other states to improve school funding equity and secure essential resources for all public-school students, particularly those who are underserved and underrepresented. In special education cases, the Education Law Center provides free legal assistance to lower-income New Jersey parents residing in 12 northern and central counties. Due to limited capacity, legal representation can only be provided to a small number of applicants. Others receive advice and/or referrals, including referrals, when eligible, to Volunteer Lawyers for Justice for pro bono (free) representation. In New Jersey and nationally, ELC works to ensure students with disabilities receive the full range of educational services they are entitled to under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). Through systemic litigation,

individual advocacy, legislative work, parent and attorney trainings, know-your-rights publications, and coalition building, ELC has impacted the lives of many thousands of students.

Legal Services of New Jersey

Statewide Coordinating Office 100 Metroplex Drive, Suite 402

PO Box 1357

Edison, NJ 08818-1357

732-572-9100

888-576-5529 (toll free)

Website: lsnj.org

Legal Services of New Jersey coordinates the statewide Legal Services system, which provides free legal assistance to low-income New Jerseyans for their civil legal problems. New Jersey has six Legal Services Program: 5 regional programs, which provide direct services to clients in all 21 counties through 23 local offices, and Legal Services of New Jersey, the statewide coordinating office. If you are in need of legal services with this agency all calls will be routed through the Statewide Coordinating Office where they will determine if and how they can assist.

Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

PO Box 32040

Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: 973.645.1955

Fax: 973.645.1954

Website: vljnj.org

Email: vlj@vljnj.org

Volunteer Lawyers for Justice Children's Representation Program accepts referral of cases from Education Law Center, Disability Rights New Jersey, and Advocates for Children of New Jersey and matches eligible parents and guardians of children with pro bono (free) attorneys. The types of education cases accepted for referral involve children who have been denied special education services to which they are entitled, are victims of harassment or bullying at school, or are facing school discipline issues. Since this is a referral service, you must first contact either the Disability Rights of New Jersey or Education Law Center first to have your case screened. Please use the following information to best direct your call to the correct agency:

If you are calling from:

- Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, or Salem, please contact the Disability Rights of NJ at 1-800-922-7233 or 609-292-9742.

If you are calling from:

- Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, or Warren, **or**
- If you have a concern or question concerning Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying anywhere in New Jersey, please call the Education Law Center at 973-624-1815 extension 30.

These organizations will talk to you to determine if your issues can be referred to this office.

Lawyer Referral Services

The following is a listing of county bar associations that offer lawyer referral services. Locate your county of residence and contact the appropriate service.

Atlantic County Bar Association

1201 Bacharach Boulevard
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
Phone: 609.345.3444
Website: atcobar.org

Bergen County Bar Association

15 Bergen Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601
Phone: 201.488.0044
Website: bergenbar.org

Burlington County Bar Association

137 High Street,
3rd Floor
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
Phone: 609.261.4862
Website: burlcobar.org
Email: bcba@burlcobar.org

Camden County Bar Association

1702 Haddonfield-Berlin Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
Phone: 856.482.0620 x113
Fax: 856-482-0637
Website: camdencountybar.org

Cape May County Bar Association

9 North Main Street
Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210
Phone: 609.463.0313
Website: cmcba.org

Cumberland County Bar Association

PO Box 2374
Vineland, NJ 08362
Phone: 856.696.5550
Website: ccnjbar.org
Email: ccba@ccnjbar.org

Essex County Bar Association

470 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 973.622.6204
Website: essexbar.com
Email: info@essexbar.com

Gloucester County Bar Association

PO Box 338
Woodbury, NJ 08096
Phone: 856.848.4589
Website: gcbanj.org
Email: baroffice@gcbanj.org

Hudson County Bar Association

583 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306
Phone: 201.798.4708
Website: hcbalaw.com

Hunterdon County Bar Association

PO Box 573
Annandale, NJ 08801
Phone: 908.200.7822
Website: huntcolaw.org
Email: hcba@comcast.net

Middlesex County Bar Association

87 Bayard Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Phone: 732.828.0053 ext. 100
Website: mcbalaw.com
Email: admin@mcbalaw.com

Monmouth Bar Association

Monmouth County Court House
Freehold, NJ 07728
Phone: 732.431.5544
Website:
monmouthbarassociation.com

Morris County Bar Association

245 South Street
Morristown, NJ 07960
Phone: 973.267.6089
Website: morriscountybar.com

Ocean County Bar Association

PO Box 381
Toms River, NJ 08754
Phone: 732.240.3666
Website: oceancountybar.org

Passaic County Bar Association

401 Grand Street,
3rd Floor Paterson, NJ 07505
Phone: 973.345.4585
Website: passaicbar.org

Salem County Bar Association

Phone: 856.935.5629
Website: salemcountybar.org
Email: contact@salemcountybar.org

Somerset County Bar Association

20 North Bridge Street HCH 325
Somerville, NJ 08876
Phone: 908.685.2323
Website: somersetbar.com
Email: director@somersetbar.com

Sussex County Bar Association

61 Spring Street, 4th Floor
Newton, NJ 07860
Phone: 973.383.3900
Website: sussexcountybar.com
Email: info@sussexctybarassoc.com

Union County Bar Association

2 Broad Street,
1st Floor
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
Phone: 908.353.4715
Website: uclaw.com

Warren County Bar Association

413 Second Street
Belvidere, NJ 07823
Website: warrencountybar.org
Email: info@warrencountybar.org

Advocacy Services

Advancing Opportunities

610 Beverly Rancocas Rd.
Willingboro, NJ 08046
609-882-4182
1-888-695-0845
609-882-4054 (Fax)
Website: advopps.org Email: info@advopps.org

Advancing Opportunities provides a one-on-one individualized service to help parents navigate the complex maze that is special education. Using your child's strengths and interests, a special education advocate will help design an advocacy campaign to meet his or her needs and ensure a free and appropriate education is provided. To accomplish this, an advocate will partner with a parent to engage in the following activities:

- Act as a guide through the evaluation process
- Monitor progress
- Provide technical assistance for filing complaint investigations through the New Jersey Department of Education
- Assist with mediation

- Provide information on services, modifications, and technology the district may not be aware of or share with a parent
- Obtain outcome-oriented transitional services, according to IDEA guidelines
- Attend IEP meetings
- Perform strategic planning
- Write letters

Services are available to families with children who meet the criteria for developmentally or intellectually disabled, at no cost to families. To find out if your child is eligible, contact the Department of Children and Families' Children's System of Care, at 1-877-652-7624.

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute

985 Livingston Avenue North Brunswick, NJ 08902

732-246-2525

732-246-2526

732-214-1834 (Fax)

Website: thearcfamilyinstitute.org

Email: info@arcnj.org

The Arc of New Jersey is the state's largest organization advocating for and serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc of New Jersey is an affiliated chapter of the national chapter of The Arc, and community-based services are available statewide through our strong network of Local County Chapters. The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute is happy to assist families with children who receive special education and related services. They provide information, education, and advocacy for families who are having trouble with their child's school district. If you require help from a non- attorney advocate regarding special education, visit their website and complete the form to request an advocate.

Local Chapters of the Arc

In all 21 counties in New Jersey, the Local County Chapters of The Arc work to help people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities achieve their fullest potential. The wide range of services offered spans the lifetime of the person with a disability and supports both the individual and their family. There are twenty local county chapters of The Arc. Each county chapter works to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve their fullest potential.

The Arc of Atlantic County

6550 Delilah Road, Suite 101

Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234

609-485-0800

The Arc of Bergen & Passaic Counties County

223 Moore Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601
201-343-0322

The Arc of Burlington County

115 East Broad Street
Burlington, NJ 08016
(856) 764-9494

The Arc of Camden County

215 West White Horse Pike
Berlin, NJ 08009
(856) 767-3650

The Arc of Cape May County

922 Route 47 PO Box 255
South Dennis, NJ 08245
(609) 861-7100

The Arc of Cumberland County

1680 West Sherman Avenue
Vineland, NJ 08360
(856) 691-9138

The Arc of Essex County

123 Naylor Avenue
Livingston, NJ 07039
(973) 535-1181

The Arc of Gloucester

1555 Gateway Blvd.
Woodbury, NJ 08096
(856) 848-8648

The Arc of Hudson County

3229 Bergenline Avenue Unit 3
Union City, NJ 07087
(201) 319-9225

The Arc of Hunterdon County

1465 Route 31
Annandale, NJ 08801
(908) 730-7827

The Arc of Mercer County

180 Ewingville Road
Ewing, NJ 08638
(609) 406-0181

The Arc of Middlesex County

1100 Cornwall Road, Ste 100
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
(732) 247-8155

The Arc of Monmouth County

1158 Wayside Road
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712
(732) 493-1919

The Arc of Morris County

PO Box 123
Morris Plains, NJ 07950
(973) 326-9750

The Arc of Ocean County

815 Cedar Bridge Road
Lakewood, NJ 08701
(732) 363-3335

The Arc of Salem County

PO Box 5
150 Salem-Woodstown Road
Salem, NJ 08079
(856) 935-3600

The Arc of Somerset County

141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835
(908) 725-8544

The Arc of Sussex County (SCARC)

11 US Route 206, Suite 100
Augusta, NJ 07822
(973) 383-7442

The Arc of Union County

70 Diamond Road
Springfield, NJ 07081
(973) 315-0000

The Arc of Warren County

319 West Washington Ave, Suite 2
Washington, NJ 07882
(908) 689-7525

Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey (LDANJ)

614 Cranbury Road, Unit 6268
East Brunswick, NJ 08816
732-645-2738

Website: <https://ldanj.org/>

Email: info@LDANJ.org

The Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey (LDANJ) is the state affiliate of the Learning Disabilities Association of America. LDANJ is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to providing information, support, and advocacy for children and adults with learning disabilities.

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)

35 Halsey Street 4th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102
973-642-8100
800-654-7726 (Toll-Free)
973-642-8080 (Fax)

Website: spanadvocacy.org

Email: info@spanadvocacy.org

SPAN receives numerous federal, state, and other grants and funding to run a variety of programs and projects that support their vision and mission. Through the activities of these programs, SPAN provides families and professionals with the resources and support they need to ensure that their children become fully participating and contributing members of our communities and society.

