

Legal Concerns of Senior Veterans And Resources That May Help

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Pro Seniors, Inc.
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Pro Seniors' Mission

Our mission is to enhance the independence and quality of life for older adults by empowering them, by protecting their interests and by facilitating their access to resources



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Common Issues Veteran Clients Face And Legal Resources That May Help



Legal Helpline 2024 Statistics

- 892 Veteran clients
- 1352 Appointments scheduled



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#1: Wills and Estates and Advanced Directives - 17.2%

- Estate Administration
- Avoiding Probate
- Wills and Trusts
- Advanced Directives



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#1: Wills and Estates and Advanced Directives Resources

- Pro Seniors Helpline
- Bar Association
- Legal Aid



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Pro Seniors



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Pro Seniors' Services: Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Ombudsman advocate for excellence in long-term services and support wherever consumers live.

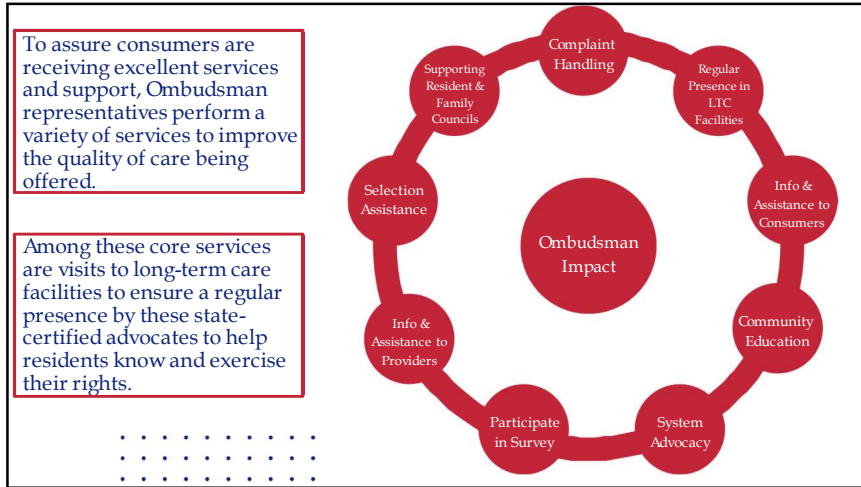
The mission of the ombudsman program is to seek resolution of problems and advocate for the rights of home care consumers and residents of long-term care facilities.

Pro Seniors' Long-Term Care Ombudsman service area includes Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, and Warren counties in Southwest Ohio.



Long-Term Care Ombudsman

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Pro Seniors' Services: Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol

Our Senior Medicare Patrol Team Helps Ohioans prevent, detect, and report Medicare fraud, errors, abuse and scams.

Our team conducts statewide outreach and shares best practices to protect personal information and avoid identity theft.

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol

Preventing Medicare Fraud

Pro Seniors' Services: Legal Assistance

Our Legal help Includes:

- Information, advice & counseling
- Extended representation
- Lawyer referral

Contacting Pro Senior's Legal Helpline is the first step to getting legal advice, information, and options. If you live in Ohio and are age 60 or over, or you are calling on behalf of an Ohio senior, call 1-513-345-4160.

Low-income veterans in Ohio who are 60 or older, face a lot of obstacles to getting good legal representation.

Pro Seniors can help connect veterans to an attorney for legal assistance.

Helpline Referral Guide

FREE LEGAL HELPLINE

Legal Information, Advice, and Referrals for Older Adults

Referring older adults to Pro Seniors' Legal Helpline is an important first step in extending limited legal assistance resources. Ohio's Legal Helpline, operated by Pro Seniors, provides 30 minutes of free legal information, advice, and referrals on any civil matter for residents of Ohio age 60 and over, regardless of income or resources. If more extensive assistance is needed, the helpline will refer consumers to another legal assistance provider or a private attorney in the consumer's area.

How does the Legal Helpline work?

1. Call the Legal Helpline.
2. Helpline specialists will gather the caller's basic information to focus on quickly posing questions to a helpline specialist.
3. The helpline specialist will schedule a telephone appointment for the consumer with a Legal Helpline attorney.
4. The attorney will call during the scheduled appointment time.

Call the Legal Helpline:
513-345-4160 or 800-488-6070
Open Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MOST COMMON LEGAL ISSUES FOR OLDER ADULTS IN OHIO:

- Access to benefits such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, veterans benefits, food assistance, and education funding.
- Health care and dental coverage, enrollment, changes, renewals, and appeals.
- Consumer debt due to health care costs.
- General housing including issues related to care, eviction, security deposits, utilities, and conditions of occupancy.
- Estate planning including issues related to wills, trusts, consumer protection from fraud and financial exploitation.
- Planning for the care of long-term care and supports.
- Wills.
- Advance directives and supportive decision making.

PRO SENIORS' LEGAL HELPLINE

- Staffed by experienced attorneys
- Preset 30-minute appointments
- By telephone
- Free legal advice, counsel, and referral



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How Can We Help You

- Refer Clients to Our Helpline
- Helpline Attorneys Do Not Represent Parties in Court, But can...
 - Advise on Rights and Legal Options
 - Help Understand Legal Processes / Concepts
 - Refer to a Private Attorney at Reduced Cost / Pro Bono

This is a way to get legal advice for seniors in your area

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How it Works

- “Do you want to talk to a lawyer?”
- Provide Pro Seniors number: 1-800-488-6070 (Statewide-toll free)

Non-Profit: Same as a referral to legal aid

- Telephone Consultation(s) 100% Free to the Party

Party Calls our Helpline

- Appointments typically scheduled w/in 10 days
- Referral to a private attorney at reduced cost / pro bono (if appropriate)

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The **walk-in** legal clinic is offered on the **2nd Friday of each month from 10:00am to 12:00pm** at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center

- Available to any veteran
- Attorneys are available for brief advice, consultation, and referrals in eviction, family law, estate planning, public benefits, and consumer disputes.

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Pro Seniors' Monthly Veterans Legal Clinic
+
The Veterans Justice Outreach Project at Cincinnati VA Medical Center
+
Greater Cincinnati Legal Aid

Pro Seniors Pension Project

- No age requirement
- Provides basic advice about pension laws and pension rights
- Provides information on survivor benefits, defined benefit plans and rights of divorced persons
- Resolves pension problems
- Provides referrals to experienced pension attorneys as needed
- Finds lost pensions
- Call 866-783-5021



Ohio Senior Legal Services

- Older Americans Act
- Title III-B Legal Services Providers/Legal Aid Network
- Services Targeted to Seniors with the Greatest Economic & Social Needs
- Supply/Demand

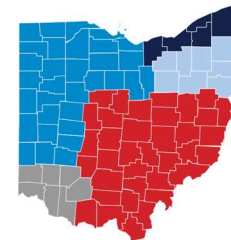


Legal Aid



Ohio Legal Aid Offices

- Independent nonprofit law firms located in five regional offices
- May have income limit for assistance, usually 200% FPL (\$2,608 per month for a household size of 1)
- Helps for free with civil legal issues to assist Ohioans in living safer, healthier, more financially stable lives



Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati Services

Family Law and Domestic Violence

- Secure protection orders
- Resolve custody and visitation
- Represent in divorce proceedings
- Coordinate community services



Housing and Consumer

- Represent in eviction and foreclosure cases
- Prevent lockout or utility cutoff by landlords
- Obtain repairs of unsafe conditions
- Improve neighborhood housing
- Resolve consumer debt & tax disputes

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Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati Services

Employment and Income

- Resolve problems that interfere with job training or employment
- Secure unpaid wages
- Help Veterans with disability claims or to prevent homelessness
- Expand employment opportunities for persons with disabilities
- Secure income and medical benefits

Education and Child Safety

- Obtain special education support
- Prevent suspension and expulsion
- Address education needs of foster children
- Represent children in abuse, dependency and neglect cases



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Bar Association Lawyer Referral Services



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Cincinnati Bar Association LRS

- Can be accessed on the Cincinnati Bar Association website or by calling 513-381-8359
- Handles more than 15,000 calls per year



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#2: Medicaid – 14.1%

- Medicaid Eligibility
- Medicaid Problems
- Medicaid Estate Recovery



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#2: Medicaid Resources

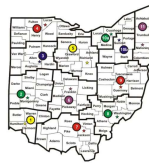
- Pro Seniors Helpline
- Bar Association
- Legal Aid
- Area Agency on Aging



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Council on Aging

- Local Area Agency on Aging
- Coordinate local services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities
- Can provide lots of information on home and community based Medicaid services



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#3: Landlord/Tenant and Homeowner – 13.9%

- Evictions
- Lease violations
- Housing conditions
- Foreclosure



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#3: Landlord/Tenant and Homeowner Resources

- Pro Seniors Helpline
- Bar Association
- Legal Aid
- Housing Opportunities Made Equal



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Housing Opportunities Made Equal

- Fights housing discrimination and educates about fair housing rights
- Services are free
- Have lots of information about landlord-tenant housing



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#4: Collection and Other Consumer Issues – 13.4%

- Repossession
- Garnishment
- Debtor Rights
- Consumer Rights



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#4: Collection and Other Consumer Issues Resources

- Pro Seniors Helpline
- Bar Association
- Legal Aid
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau



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Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

- Implements and enforces Federal consumer financial law
- Can file consumer complaints
- Provide lots of information on consumer rights



#5: Income - 5%

- Social Security
- SNAP
- Veterans Benefits
- Pensions



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#5: Income Resources

- Pro Seniors Helpline
- Bar Association
- Legal Aid
- Veterans Service Commission



County Veterans Service Commissions

- Each county has its own VSC office
- Assists veterans and veterans' families in accessing VA benefits
- Some emergency financial assistance may be available
- Services are free



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Referrals:

Phone:
513-345-4160
800-488-6070

Website:
www.ProSeniors.org



Questions?

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