

FUNDING

We are supported by federal grants, including support from the Legal Services Corporation, funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia through the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia, Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA), United Ways across our service area, various localities, the Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging, Valley Program for Aging Services, and contributions from the public.

GOVERNANCE

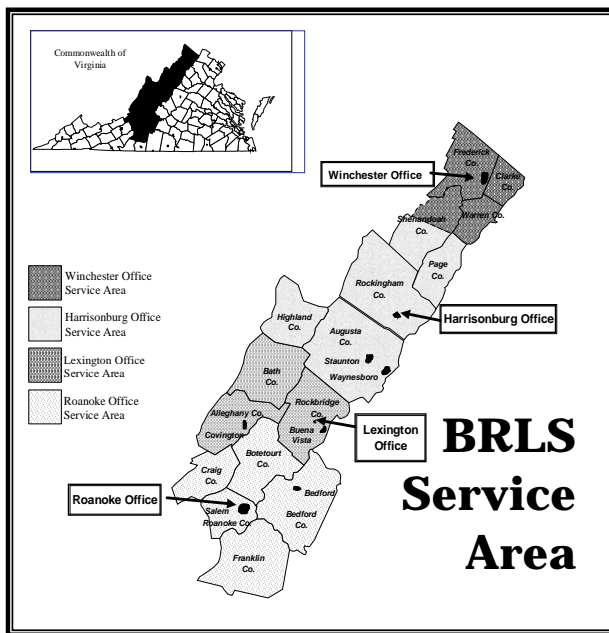
Blue Ridge Legal Services is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation governed by an 18 member Board of Directors. Our Board is composed of 12 attorneys appointed by various bar associations across the service area, and 6 non-lawyers who are eligible for our services appointed by community organizations.

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc. does not discriminate on the bases of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, national origin, political party affiliation or any other basis prohibited by law.

If you have any complaints regarding the denial or quality of services, you may contact the Executive director at the Harrisonburg office listed inside.



"Equal Justice Under Law"



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Blue Ridge Legal Services, you can visit our website at www.brls.org. You are also welcome to send e-mail with general inquiries (not seeking specific legal advice) to info@brls.org, or call us at the numbers listed inside. If you are seeking legal assistance, please call the offices during the hours specified inside in order to be screened for eligibility.

If you would like written information answering the most common legal questions asked by legal aid clients, visit the statewide website for Virginia's legal aid societies, www.valegalaid.org, a joint project of the legal aid programs across Virginia. Or if you would like to hear pre-recorded legal information on a variety of legal issues when our offices are closed, please call our toll-free Legal Aid Helpline at 1-866-534-5243 on weekends, holidays and from 5 p.m. – 9 a.m. weekdays.

Low-Income? Need Legal Help?



BLUE RIDGE LEGAL SERVICES INC.

*The Legal Aid Society serving the
Shenandoah and Roanoke Valleys
of Virginia.*



MISSION

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc. is a nonprofit charitable organization established to provide free, high quality legal assistance in many types of civil (non-criminal) matters of critical importance to residents of the Shenandoah Valley and Roanoke Valley who would otherwise be unable to obtain such services due to their poverty. This mission is premised on the recognition that the American ideal of “Equal Justice for All” citizens can be achieved only if we provide the poor meaningful access to our judicial system.

STAFF

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc. employs a small staff of licensed attorneys, paralegals and support staff in offices located in Winchester, Harrisonburg, Lexington, and Roanoke. Our legal staff is supplemented by the donated services of over 450 private attorneys throughout the Shenandoah Valley and Roanoke Valley who have agreed to handle cases we refer to them on a *pro bono* basis, without charge.

OUR SERVICES

The most common legal problems handled by Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc. include family disputes (for example, domestic violence, divorce), problems dealing with debts and bankruptcy, housing and landlord-tenant disputes, eligibility for various government benefits (such as food stamps, TANF, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits), access to health care (for example, issues involving Medicaid and Medicare), consumer disputes, and issues affecting seniors (such as exploitation and problems with nursing homes).

We do not handle criminal matters, traffic violations, personal injuries or malpractice cases and other cases outside of our priorities. We reserve the right to decline representation in a particular matter based on priorities established by our Board of Directors, existing caseloads, ethical considerations, and the merits of the case itself.

Our legal assistance ranges from simple advice or brief service to ongoing representation in negotiations and litigation in state and federal courts and administrative agencies, depending on the needs of the client, the type of case, and available resources.

ELIGIBILITY

Financial eligibility for our services is based primarily on the number of persons in the applicant’s household, the household’s income and resources, as well as the type of case involved. BRLS does not use a sliding fee scale. If the applicant is eligible, the services are free. If the applicant is “over-income,” then no services can be

provided. Because of financial support we receive from Valley Program for Aging Services and the Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging, we are able to assist some senior citizens who might not otherwise qualify for our services.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for our services, find the office that serves your county or city on the chart below and call during that office’s intake hours. If you are unsure which office to call, you may call 1-866-534-5243* and you will be automatically routed to the legal aid office that serves your area.

WINCHESTER OFFICE

Serves the City of Winchester and the counties of Clarke, Frederick, northern Shenandoah, and Warren. To apply for assistance, contact the office between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays:

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 436
119 South Kent Street
Winchester, VA 22604
(540) 662-5021
(800) 678-5021*

HARRISONBURG OFFICE

Serves the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro and the counties of Augusta, Highland, Page, Rockingham and southern Shenandoah. To apply for assistance, contact the office between 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday:

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.
P. O. Box 551
204 N. High Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22803
(540) 433-1830
(800) 237-0141*

LEXINGTON OFFICE

Serves the cities of Buena Vista, Covington, and Lexington, and the counties of Alleghany, Bath, and Rockbridge. To apply for assistance, contact the office between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday -- Friday:

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.
203 North Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-7334
(540) 862-7642
(local call for applicants and clients in
Covington and Alleghany County)

ROANOKE OFFICE

Serves the cities of Bedford, Roanoke, and Salem, and the counties of Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke. To apply for assistance, contact the office between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday:

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.
132 Campbell Ave., SW
Suite 300
Roanoke, VA 24011
(540) 344-2080
(866) 534-5243*

*toll free for applicants and clients