

## What is the Affordable Lawyers Project?

Affordable Lawyers is a project of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai`i (LASH), the state's largest public interest law firm and serving Hawaii's people since 1950. LASH's primary focus is to assist individuals whose incomes are lower than 125% of the federal poverty guidelines.

However, at Legal Aid, we recognize that families above our income guidelines can rarely afford attorney's fees for their legal problems. Therefore, we created the Affordable Lawyers Project to help.

Affordable Lawyers provides low-cost legal services to individuals who are *over-income* for LASH's free services. You can earn up to 250% of the federal poverty guidelines and still qualify.

Services provided by the Affordable Lawyers Project are offered on a flat-fee basis and an hourly-rate basis. Full representation may be available for various contested and uncontested legal problems for an additional fee.

Here are examples of services provided by the Affordable Lawyers Project:

- Bankruptcy
- Divorce
- Adoption
- Modification of Custody/Visitation/ Child Support
- Guardianship of A Minor Child or An Incapacitated Adult
- Power of Attorney
- Advance Health Care Directive
- Simple Wills
- Full Representation in Selected Cases

Call us to apply for assistance or visit our website, [www.legalaidhawaii.org](http://www.legalaidhawaii.org) for more information.



**Affordable Lawyers**  
A Project of  
the Legal Aid Society of Hawai`i  
to Provide Quality Legal Help  
for Financially Qualified  
Individuals

**Full Representation  
Services from  
Affordable Lawyers**

### CONTACT US.

Oahu: 527-8027      Maui: 244-5400  
Hilo: 935-4374      Kona: 331-1124  
Kauai: 245-4728

[alawyers@lashaw.org](mailto:alawyers@lashaw.org)  
<http://www.legalaidhawaii.org>

## Am I Eligible for Affordable Lawyers Services?

### Step One: How many individuals are in your household?

Check off a box for each person that *lives in your home with you*. Count the number of boxes you check off to determine your household size.

- You
- Your Spouse (Boy/girlfriends don't count)
- Your Child(ren) Under 18
  - Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_
- Children you are legally responsible for (for example, you are the legal guardian for your niece and nephew)
  - Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_
- Adults you are legally responsible for (for example, you have a guardianship over a disabled adult sister)
  - Number of adults: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total number in household** = \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Do *not* count spouse's child if you are not the parent.

\*\*Do *not* count children or adults you are not legally responsible to care for.

### Step Two: What is your monthly household income?

Add up the monthly cash income of each person listed as a member of your household. Include employment income *before taxes* are taken out, Social Security, stock dividends, rental income, etc. Add the gross monthly incomes together. Do not count food stamps, if your household receives food stamps.

### Step Three: Are you income-eligible for Affordable Lawyers?

Check the box below to see if you are eligible.

Income Guidelines are based on federal poverty guidelines as of July 2003.

Household of 1: \$1,076 - \$2,152

Household of 2: \$1,452 - \$2,904

Household of 3: \$1,828 - \$3,656

Household of 4: \$2,204 - \$4,408

Household of 5: \$2,580 - \$5,160

For larger households, please contact us.

If you do not fall within these guidelines, call Legal Aid to see if you qualify under a different project.

### What is "Full Representation"?

Full representation means that an attorney will assist you through all steps of the legal process you are about to start. Many of our clients are able to represent themselves in court with just our assistance in preparing their documents for filing with the Court and a little guidance from our staff. However, other clients have more complicated, stressful legal problems and may not be able to do it alone. For these clients we offer the option of having an attorney fill out all paperwork, attend court hearings and speak for you in court at a reduced-rate hourly fee.

### The first step would be to call us.

We will discuss your matter with you over the telephone. If your case is the kind of matter we can help you with, we will set up an interview to discuss the specifics of your matter, our fees, and what you can expect.

Cases for which full representation may not be needed are those cases in which all parties agree on what the outcome should be, e.g. uncontested divorce cases. *Legal Aid is not able to assist with any criminal, personal injury or product liability cases.*

To find out if full representation is an option for you, contact us at the office nearest you:

Oahu 527-8027    Maui 244-5400  
Hilo 935-4374    Kona 331-1124