

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: ____


**Do *not* count spouse's children 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, welfare, 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 on the right to see if you are eligible. 

How Can Affordable Lawyers Help Me With My Power of Attorney if I'm Eligible?

What is a Power of Attorney?

A *Power of Attorney* is an agreement you sign that grants an appointed person the authority to perform whatever duties are outlined in the agreement. There are different types of Powers of Attorney.

General Power of Attorney: *There are few or no things that an agent will NOT have authority over. If you are concerned that you may become mentally incompetent (i.e. a health emergency or crisis) or will not be physically present to make decisions concerning your affairs, you may chose to appoint an agent to step in for you.*

Limited Power of Attorney: *This usually applies to one special task that you need help with (i.e. you can specify that you only want your agent to be able to cash your paychecks for you, not sell your property or buy a car in your name).*

Durable Power of Attorney: *To be valid, a Durable Power of Attorney must be signed before the principal becomes incompetent. It is the only POA that remains effective in the event of your becoming incapacitated.*

How much is the fee for Affordable Lawyers assistance?

Affordable Lawyers may be able to help you draft either your General or Limited Power of Attorney for \$50. A Durable Power of Attorney costs \$75.

I'd like Affordable Lawyers to help me. How do I apply?

1. Check to see if you financially qualify.
2. If you DO qualify, call us at 527-8027.
3. Leave the following information:
 - your name,
 - your phone number(s), and
 - tell us that you need help with a Power of Attorney.

An Affordable Lawyers staff person will call you back within 2-3 business days.

Visit our website for more information.

If you decide to visit our website (www.legalaidhawaii.org) there will be instructions on how to proceed. This is the most efficient approach if it is available to you.

Affordable Lawyers Project Income 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.

The above guidelines increase as the federal poverty guidelines increase. If you do not fall within these ranges, call Legal Aid to see if you qualify under a different project.

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. LASH's primary focus is to assist individuals who are lower than 125% of the federal poverty guidelines.

At LASH, we recognize, however, that families above our income guidelines can rarely afford high attorney fees for their legal problems. 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, up to 250% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Services provided by the Affordable Lawyers Project are offered on a flat-fee basis for some services; and an hourly-rate basis for more complicated issues.

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

- Chapter 7 Bankruptcy
- Divorce
- Adoption
- Modification of Custody/Visitation/
Child Support
- Guardianship of A Minor Child or
Incapacitated Adult
- Power of Attorney
- Advance Health Care Directive
- Simple Wills
- Name Changes

Contact us to apply for services or for more information.



Affordable Lawyers

A Project of
the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i
to help individuals who are
over-income for
regular Legal Aid services

Power of Attorney

CALL US.

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