

Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Inc.

Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Inc. ("DVLS"), a non-profit corporation, provides civil law-related pro bono assistance to the most vulnerable Delawareans with the assistance of volunteer attorneys.

For over 40 years, the DVLS Board of Directors and staff have been committed to providing pro bono civil representation to Delaware citizens who need an attorney but cannot afford one.

DVLS volunteers and staff assist clients with family law involving domestic violence, housing, guardianships of adults, wills, powers of attorneys and advance healthcare directives and other civil matters.

Through outreach to social service agencies and community site visits, we reach populations such as non-English speakers, the elderly population, victims of domestic violence and the homeless, who are unlikely to contact DVLS for help on their own.

Our goal is to help as many people as possible, through what is often the most difficult time in their lives, either through direct representation or advice.

Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Inc.

**P.O. Box 7306
Wilmington, Delaware 19803**

(302) 478-8680

***Facsimile:* (302) 477-2227**

***Website:* www.dvls.org**



Supported by:

**Widener University
Delaware Law School**



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Types of Cases Do We Handle

DVLS may be able to assist you with the following matters:

Please note that we can never guarantee representation for any matter.

Family Law Matters for Victims of Domestic Violence:

Protection From Abuse (PFA)

DVLS assists victims of domestic violence with PFA matters. A PFA is filed in the Family Court requesting protection and may include relief including but not limited to no contact and other ancillary relief.

Custody/Visitation

DVLS assists victims of domestic violence with representation or advice for matters related to custody and visitation.

Divorce

DVLS assists victims of domestic violence with initial divorce paperwork. We do not assist with any matters related to property division or support.

***Custody/Guardianship for matters related to Special Immigrant Juvenile only**

DVLS does not assist with any other guardianship of minors.

***Uncontested Adult Guardianships:**

DVLS assist with uncontested guardianship matters in the Court of Chancery. A Guardian is a person appointed by the Court to make medical and/or financial decisions for a person with an alleged disability who is over 18. DVLS does not assist with contested guardianship matters.

***Estate Documents:** Delawareans 60 years of age or older, individuals who are terminally ill, and victims of domestic violence.

***Will:** A will details your wishes regarding how, what you own at the time of your death, is distributed after you die.

***Advance Healthcare Directive** allows you to choose what health care you want or do not want if you become incapacitated. You can also choose the person you want to be responsible for carrying out your wishes.

***Powers of Attorney:** A financial power of attorney allows you to choose who you want to handle your finances either immediately or if you become incapacitated.

***Millers Trust:** A Millers Trust allows individuals to receive Medicaid benefits for long term care services, like nursing home care, if their

incomes are above the Medicaid eligibility limit.

*** Expungement and Pardons**

Attorneys can represent clients for Pardons, and Expungements and may also refer clients to other agencies for assistance.

***Name Change:**

DVLS can assist with name changes for people who want to change their names because their name does not match their identity.

***Project Rightful Owner:**

After a foreclosure sale, if the proceeds of a sale exceed the amount of money needed to pay off all recorded liens and mortgages then former homeowner may be entitled to receive the excess funds.

^We are the secondary agency for other matters including but not limited to: Landlord/Tenant, Bankruptcy, and other areas.

*** Income and asset limitations apply for assistance in these matters.**

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