

CONTRA COSTA SENIOR LEGAL SERVICES (CCSLs)**SERVICES OFFERED***Updated Nov. 2020*

Vision and Mission. CCSLS' vision is that every older adult in Contra Costa County is able to live a safe, healthy, and productive life as they age. Our mission is to provide free legal services to protect the rights of older adults (60 and over), mediate poverty, improve health outcomes, and enable older adults to remain independent.

Program Areas. CCSLS prioritizes legal matters that most affect the ability of seniors to remain independent and vital as they age, such as prevention of elder abuse, bolstering consumer rights, and preservation of housing. Our work has *three main components*:

- (1) **Direct legal services** in housing, elder abuse, consumer and individual rights, public benefits
- (2) **Administering clinics** (virtual and in-person) to provide general legal advice and referrals, simple wills, durable powers of attorney and advance health care directives.
- (3) **Educating the public** and partners through presentations, trainings, publications, participation in senior fairs and community coalitions, and other means

Service Areas. We commonly accept clients for the following issues:

1. Elder abuse restraining orders. (Physical, emotional, mental, financial abuse, or caregiver neglect of a senior 65+, or a dependent adult 60 or older). In limited circumstances, we can assist with restraining orders for domestic violence or civil harassment.
2. Tenant issues: unlawful detainers, security deposit refunds, habitability concerns, post-judgment stays on eviction, etc.
3. Homeowner protection: mortgage disputes, utilities collection, etc.
4. Consumer law issues: assistance dealing with debt collectors, defense of collections lawsuits, fraudulent or unfair contracts, scams and identity theft, student loan issues, etc.
5. Public benefits issues, e.g., SSI, SSA, SSDI, Medi-Cal, and Medicare (but *not* applications for benefits).
6. Advance planning: Durable Powers of Attorney and Advance Health Care Directives
7. Assistance with small claims court

Services CCSLS does NOT provide. Due to limited resources, CCSLS cannot assist with all legal areas. We can, however, make referrals in some cases. Visit CCSLS' website (www.ccsls.org) under Programs/Legal Services for a list of service providers by topic. We are generally unable to assist with the following issues:

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| 1. Landlord rights (absent elder abuse) | 7. Tax |
| 2. Criminal law | 8. Employment |
| 3. Family law (divorce, custody, etc.) | 9. Guardianship |
| 4. Immigration | 10. Conservatorship |
| 5. Personal injury or medical malpractice | 11. Applying for public benefits |
| 6. Probate | 12. Trusts |