

LEGAL NEEDS DURING AND AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The State's recovery effort should include legal assistance for North Carolinians as they confront the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 RELATED BENEFITS

Legal assistance will help North Carolinians understand and access new or newly expanded federal and state benefits.

- Federal pandemic assistance benefits under the FFCRA, the CARES Act, and IRS and DOL directives, including SBA loans.
- Unemployment insurance, TANF, SNAP/food stamps, SSI.
- Healthcare access through Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act.

ECONOMIC-RELATED SERVICES

Legal services help ameliorate financial hardships due to loss of income and provide stability to communities.

- Foreclosure prevention / mortgage renegotiation.
- Negotiating repayment plans to avoid utility shutoffs.
- Negotiating rent repayment plans.
- Employment-related advice and information.

FAMILY SUPPORT

History shows that when families' economic situations worsen, it affects their self-sufficiency and safety. These domestic issues impact families and inhibit the ability of individuals to recover and return to work.

- Domestic violence response, including protective orders and contempt motions.
- Guardianships for adults and children and advice about alternative options.
- Emergency custody orders and modifications.
- Powers of attorney to care for a child or elderly person.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE NORTH CAROLINIANS

During economic crises the most vulnerable North Carolinians can be deprived of their rights.

- Access to public education in a new education environment, including IEP and 504 issues.
- Civil rights and disability rights cases.
- Consumer price gouging and other scams.

MISCELLANEOUS

To facilitate full recovery as listed above, it is often necessary to provide other services.

- Estate planning document replacement.
- Replace legal documents (ID, driver license, SS, EBT, custody, immigration, deed, etc.).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jennifer M. Lechner, NC Equal Access to Justice Commission
(919) 890-1092
lechner@ncaccesstojustice.org

Rick Zechini, Williams Mullen
(919) 981-4074
rzechini@williamsmullen.com