Case Referrals

Clients should be told that they are not guaranteed assistance through the VLP or Legal Services Alabama. The VLP is limited by the volunteers we have available to accept a case. Legal Services is limited by the number of staff. Please make it clear that these are only sources that they can seek further assistance but that it might not be available.

Volunteer Lawyer Program Intake Line – 1-888-857-8571
Legal Services Alabama Intake Line – 1-866-456-4995

Family Law Cases:
As a general rule the VLP accepts uncontested family law matters and Legal Services Alabama accepts contested matters particularly those which involve domestic violence.

An additional resource is pro se forms that have been developed by the Bar and are on Legal Services Alabama’s web site http://www.lawhelp.org/AL/ or www.alsp.org

Volunteer Lawyers Program
- Uncontested Divorce – both parties in agreement and willing to sign
- Divorce by Publication – Client is truly unaware of spouses whereabouts (Must pay publication costs)
- Divorce – spouse in jail, we generally accept cases where the spouse is in jail as generally the prison officials will assist in the signing of the papers or a default will be taken.
- Uncontested Custody – All parties in agreement to custody change and willing to sign
- Uncontested Visitation - All parties in agreement
- Child Support Modification – We will accept child support modifications, if there has been a significant change in income due to no fault of the client.

Legal Services Alabama
Contested Family Law cases should be referred to Legal Services Alabama particularly cases in which there is domestic violence. Domestic Violence case should also be given the number to the
Family Sunshine Center:
24-hour Crisis Lines
- 334-263-0218 (collect calls are accepted)
- 1-800-650-6522
- 1-800-787-3224 (for the hearing impaired)

An additional source of assistance are pro se forms on Legal Services Alabama’s web site.

Pro Se Forms www.alsp.org
Child Support  
How to change a Child Support Order  
Request to Change Child Support  
Child Support Obligation Income Statement/Affidavit  
Affidavit of Substantial Hardship  
Request for a Contempt Hearing (nonpayment of support)  
Also see: *Child Support a Guide to Services in Alabama*

Custody  
How to Change a Custody or Visitation Order  
Request to Change the Current Custody or Visitation Order  
Child Support Information Sheet  
Affidavit of Substantial Hardship  
First Petition for Child Custody  
Affidavit of Substantial Hardship

Visitation  
How to ask for Visitation  
Petition for Visitation  
Affidavit of Substantial Hardship  
How to Change a Custody or Visitation Order  
Request to Change the Current Custody or Visitation Order  
Child Support Information Sheet  
Affidavit of Substantial Hardship  
Request for a Contempt Hearing  
Affidavit of Substantial Hardship

Paternity  
Who is the Legal Father  
Petition to Establish Paternity  
Affidavit of Substantial Hardship

Guardian of Mentally Retarded Adult  
Request to be Guardian of a Mentally Retarded Adult Child, Brother or Sister

Name Change  
Request to Change Name (for an Adult)

Landlord/Tenant Answer to Landlord’s Claim Residential Eviction/Unlawful Detainer  
Also see: *The Alabama Tenants’ Handbook*

**Landlord Tenant Cases:**  
The VLP only accepts private Landlord/Tenant cases we do not accept cases involving public housing or Section 8. Please review case for merit. Due to the short deadline eviction cases
should be referred to Legal Services Alabama. Also see the pro se form Answer to Landlord’s
Claim – Residential Eviction/Unlawful Detainer

Legal Services Alabama accepts both private and public landlord/tenant issues including eviction
cases.

**Mortgage Foreclosure Cases**
All Mortgage Foreclosure cases should be referred to Legal Services Alabama. They have
received a HUD grant and have lawyers on staff that deal only with mortgage foreclosure issues.
They are also certified HUD counselors. Additionally they are referring all foreclosures cases
out to the VLP foreclosure panel.

**Bankruptcy Cases:**
The VLP accepts bankruptcy cases but this is an area of high need. We may not be able to
accept a client when they call.

Legal Services Alabama also handles Bankruptcy cases.

Due to the limited supply you may want to refer the client to additional resources such as
Consumer Credit Counseling
777 S Lawrence St
Montgomery, AL 36104-5076
(334) 265-8545

**Garnishment of Wages**
Refer the client to Legal Services Alabama for assistance 1-866-456-4995

**Contract/Warranty Cases**
The VLP accepts these types of cases as does Legal Services Alabama. Please evaluate the case
for merit before referral.

**Wills and Estate Cases**
Please refer all will preparation cases to the Volunteer Lawyers Program.
The VLP also accepts Small Estate Administration cases

Legal Services Alabama runs an Elder Law Hotline and clients that are over income for VLP
services can be referred to that line as it has not income limit. The Elder law Hotline is 1-866-
456-3959.