

The Arizona Military Assistance Project

Information for Volunteer Attorneys

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to describe the Arizona Military Assistance Project goals, policies and procedures. If you have any questions please contact:

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On behalf of the citizens of Arizona who will be assisted by this Project we thank you for your time and assistance.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Arizona Military Assistance Project is to provide legal assistance to those individuals who served our country but are now unable to pay for legal services. The Project serves those whose income is less than or equal to 150% of the federal poverty guidelines. The income guidelines are found in the attachments to this booklet. The first priority of the project is to build an awareness of the options available for former servicemembers to utilize an attorney's expertise. The clients will be made aware that a free one hour consultation or unbundled legal services are available. Attorneys are expected to offer brief advice or unbundled services. A one hour consultation is all that is required of the attorney for this project. However, if an attorney chooses to further the representation they agree to do so strictly pro bono.

III. PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP

This Project operates in partnership with the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education (Arizona Bar Foundation) and the State Bar of Arizona.

IV. LOCATION AND HOURS

The Legal LEARN call center takes inquiry calls for the Arizona Military Assistance Project Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and again from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and through the Arizona Access to Justice Online Intake system, which operates 24 hours a day seven days a week. Each qualified client will receive an attorney list in their requested area of law. This list will contain attorney information, including availability that has been approved by the attorney. After the client receives the information regarding participating attorneys, the client will contact the attorney and set up an appointment at a mutually agreed upon time.

V. REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTORNEY PARTICIPATION

Attorneys who participate in the Arizona Military Assistance Project must be members in good standing with the State Bar of Arizona and must have malpractice insurance to cover Arizona Military Assistance Project clients. If an attorney does not have their own malpractice insurance or is part of a firm or organization which will not cover the clients for this project the attorney may be able to obtain free malpractice insurance through the Arizona Bar Foundation.

VI. TYPES OF CASES

The Arizona Military Assistance Project offers services in the following areas: benefits, corporate law, elder law, employment law, finance banking, healthcare law, immigration, paralegal services, real estate, and tax law. The Primary aim of the Arizona Military Assistance Project is to provide brief assistance to people with legal problems in the above substantive areas. The Arizona Military Assistance Project attorneys will offer clients assistance and education on how to best handle the legal issues in their own (pro se), as well as limited unbundled services. The attorneys are permitted to provide representation to the clients; however, doing so is outside the expectation of the Arizona Military Assistance Project. If the attorney decides to represent a client, the project requires the attorneys to do so at no cost to the client and assure that the client understands they are being offered services beyond the standard scope of the Arizona Military Assistance Project.

VII. HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

A. Becoming a Modest Means Attorney

Attorneys may participate in the Modest Means Project once the following three requirements are met:

- Malpractice insurance
- Good standing with the State Bar of Arizona
- Foundation of Ethics CLE

B. Client Contact

Arizona Bar Foundation staff and volunteers receive client calls, maintain website information, provide information for available attorneys, and are responsible for demographics record-keeping. Please note that all Arizona Military Assistance Project clients are determined using an honor system and no formal paperwork or documentation is required to become a client. Attorneys who discover that their client has not served terminate the relationship.

C. Client Meetings-Arranged by Modest Means Attorneys

After the client receives the information regarding participating attorneys, the client will contact the attorney and set up an appointment at a mutually agreed upon time. Each client will be scheduled for a minimum of a one-hour appointment. It is within the Arizona Military Assistance Project attorney's discretion whether to continue representation after the initial one-hour appointment. The other parties involved should be determined and a conflict check should be conducted prior to this appointment. During this appointment, the attorney will first interview the client and screen the case for merit. If a potential client has a problem that does not merit legal assistance or falls outside of Project guidelines, the attorney should inform the client of this fact. Consultations should include legal advice and brief or unbundled legal services. Attorneys for the Arizona Military Assistance Project have discretion whether to appear on behalf of clients in litigation of any kind.

VIII. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Arizona Military Assistance Project is a project in partnership with the State Bar of Arizona Military Legal Assistance Committee, and is based in part off of the Modest Means Project. The Modest Means Project is a rebirth of the 1995 Project operating in Maricopa, (1998) Pima, and (1998) Yuma Counties through the efforts of the State Bar of Arizona Young Lawyers Division. If you have any suggestions or comments regarding this program please contact Lara Slifko at Lara.Slifko@azflse.org.

Thank you for volunteering your time!

Federal Poverty Guidelines

2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines Monthly			
Family Size	125%	150%	250%
1	\$1,238	\$1,485	\$2,475
2	\$1,669	\$2,003	\$3,338
3	\$2,100	\$2,520	\$4,200
4	\$2,531	\$3,038	\$5,063
5	\$2,963	\$3,555	\$5,925
6	\$3,394	\$4,073	\$6,788
7	\$3,826	\$4,591	\$7,652
8	\$4,259	\$5,111	\$8,519

2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines Annually			
Family Size	125%	150%	250%
1	\$14,850	\$17,820	\$29,700
2	\$20,025	\$23,030	\$40,050
3	\$25,200	\$30,240	\$50,400
4	\$30,375	\$36,450	\$60,750
5	\$35,550	\$42,660	\$71,100
6	\$40,725	\$48,870	\$81,450
7	\$45,913	\$55,095	\$91,825
8	\$51,113	\$61,335	\$102,225

The Federal Poverty Guidelines are updated yearly. The above guidelines are to provide you with an example of a participant's income who is at 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Please be aware that this information may no longer be up to date and is just an example.