

Legal Ease

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- ◆ **Are You Safe** is a nonprofit organization that helps victims of domestic violence. It provides legal assistance such as help obtaining restraining orders and injunctions. For information, call (813) 514-1058 or visit www.r-u-safe.org.
- ◆ **Aging Solutions Inc.** provides assistance to guardians for indigent wards of the state. The organization offers information on health care law as well as assistance to individuals who do not have an advocate. For information, call (813) 949-1888 or visit www.aging-solutions.org.
- ◆ **The Bankruptcy Court Legal Assistance Program** helps low-income litigants in certain proceedings. For information, visit www.flmb.uscourts.gov/legal_assistance.
- ◆ **Bay Area Legal Services** offers assistance with many legal issues such as foreclosures, family law and taxes. For information, call (813) 232-1343 or visit www.bals.org.
- ◆ **The Consumer Protection Agency of Hillsborough County** deals with cases involving fraud, theft or deceptive business practices. For information, call (813) 903-3430 or visit <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/index.aspx?nid=557>.
- ◆ **The Family Forms Clinic** is a free program offered by Bay Area Legal Services that uses volunteer attorneys to help people complete the paperwork involved in family law cases. For information, call (813) 864-2280.
- ◆ **The Federal Forms Litigation Project** offers a one-time consult to people who are representing themselves. For information, call (813) 225-4133.
- ◆ **Florida Rural Legal Services** serves individuals in Polk County with landlord-tenant issues, evictions, social security overpayment, foreclosures and power of attorney. For information, call (863) 688-7376.
- ◆ **Gulf Coast Legal Services** provides free legal assistance in areas such as foreclosure, elder law and immigration. For information, call (813) 490-9412 or visit www.gulfcoastlegal.org.
- ◆ **The Hillsborough County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral & Information Service** offers free 30-minute consultations on legal matters involving social security, disability, workers' compensation, bankruptcy, foreclosure, labor law, personal injury and active-duty military. It also offers reduced-cost consultations in all other legal matters. For information, call (813) 221-7780.

◆ **The Lemon Law Arbitration Division** of the Attorney General’s Office hosts a hotline to help individuals with “Lemon Law” cases. For information, call 1-800-321-5366 or visit www.myfloridalegal.com/lemonlaw.

◆ **The Pro Bono Bankruptcy Clinic** led by the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association provides information and prepares documents for people who are representing themselves in bankruptcy court. For information, email Jake Blanchard at jake@jakeblanchardlaw.com.

◆ **Project H.E.L.P. (Homeless Experience Legal Protection)** provides free legal advice to Hillsborough County’s homeless. Legal consultations are available every Tuesday night. For information, call (813) 209-1200.

◆ **St. Michael’s Legal Center** helps low-income women and men who need assistance with family law cases. The center’s primary service is in the collection of child support for those who cannot afford to hire an attorney. It also assists in cases of domestic battery. For information, call (813) 289-5385.

◆ **St. Paul’s Catholic Legal Clinic** offers free consultations on family law cases. For information, call (813) 264-3303.

◆ **The Victim Assistance Program** of the State Attorney’s Office offers counseling to victims of crime. Counselors may also serve as liaisons between victims and law enforcement agencies. For information, call (813) 272-6472 or visit [www.sao13th.com/victim assistance.htm](http://www.sao13th.com/victim%20assistance.htm).

◆ **Wills for Heroes**, a program supported by the Hillsborough County Bar Foundation, provides essential legal documents such as wills, health care advance directives and durable powers of attorney to Hillsborough County’s first responders and their spouses or domestic partners. For information, call (727) 471-0675.

This column is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all free and low-cost legal services available. Lupe Mitcham is director of the Hillsborough County Bar Association’s Lawyer Referral & Information Service. She can be reached at (813) 221-7780./