Last checked: 21 October 2026 · National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)

Legal Aid (Free Legal Services), National Legal Services Authority

NALSA and the State, District and Taluk Legal Services Authorities give free legal services to people who cannot afford a lawyer and to the groups named in the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

What you may get

A free lawyer in civil and criminal cases, from the first court up to the Supreme Court. The legal services body pays process fees, the cost of drafting pleadings and appeals, and certified copies of orders. Free legal advice is also given.

Who it is for

Women, children, SC and ST members, disabled persons, victims of trafficking or disasters, industrial workmen, persons in custody, and persons earning below the income limit of their State or UT.

Main conditions

- A woman can apply whatever her income is, and a child can apply up to the age of 18 years.
- A person who is not in one of the named groups must earn less than the yearly income limit set by the State or UT, and less than Rs 5 lakh for a case in the Supreme Court.
- The legal services authority must be satisfied that the person has a genuine case to bring or defend.

Documents

- Identity proof
- Certificate or affidavit showing the group the applicant belongs to, such as SC or ST, and an income affidavit where the income limit applies

How to apply

1. Go to the front office of the Taluk Legal Services Committee or the District Legal Services Authority. For a case in the High Court or the Supreme Court, go to that court's Legal Services Committee.
2. Fill the ready form there, or write a simple application on plain paper giving your name, address, category, income and the reason you need help. You can also ask a para legal volunteer to help you apply orally.
3. You can also apply online through the Legal Aid Application link on the NALSA website, or send an email to nalsa-dla@nic.in. No fee is charged for the form or the application.
4. The authority should decide on the application immediately and in any case within 7 days of receiving it.

Status

Active

Official source: https://nalsa.gov.in/legal-aid/
Official application: https://scourtapp.nic.in/lsams/nologin/applicationFiling.action?requestLocale=en
Labh Lo page: https://labhlo.in/en/schemes/central/nalsa-free-legal-aid/

Labh Lo Summary. Not an official government document.
Labh Lo is an independent information platform. This PDF is a summary. It is not an official government document. Government authorities determine final eligibility and approval. Check the official source before applying.