

WHO ARE WE?

Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc. (FRLS) is a non-profit corporation funded by grants from the Legal Services Corporation, Florida Bar Foundation, Area Agency on Aging (District VI and VII), and other agencies and foundations. Our program is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of 13 attorney and 8 client members and is staffed by full-time attorneys, paralegals, and support staff, all of who are trained to enable us to provide you professional services.

WHOM DO WE SERVE?

FRLS provides civil legal assistance to persons with limited income and assets. Our economic guidelines may be waived if you are over 60 and live in certain counties. We serve residents of these 14 counties: Lee, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Highland, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Polk, and St. Lucie. Also, we serve Migrant Farmworkers throughout the State of Florida.

WHAT CASES DO WE HANDLE?

We handle cases in the following areas:

- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Income maintenance (Social Security, SSI, Food Stamps, AFDC, Medicaid, Medicare, Unemployment Compensation)
- ✓ Farmworker Employment Issues (Wages, Working Conditions, etc)
- ✓ Employment Discrimination
- ✓ Access to Health Care
- ✓ Consumer (very limited, case-by-case basis)
- ✓ Family Law (Divorce or Custody matters involving spouse or child abuse)
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Immigration
- ✓ Wills, Probate, Adult Abuse for Elderly clients

Within the above areas we have to limit our work and case acceptance due to limited resources. WE DO NOT HANDLE CRIMINAL CASES, TRAFFIC TICKETS OR "FEE GENERATING" CASES.

HOW DO YOU FIND OUT IF WE CAN HELP YOU?

Call our office nearest you. Our client screener will ask you a few brief questions about the nature of your legal problem, you income and the income of other members of your household. If you qualify for our services, the client screener will give you an appointment with one of our attorneys or paralegals to determine if we can assist you.

HOW DO WE WORK WITH CLIENTS?

Your legal problem will be discussed in privacy and kept confidential. You will be asked to participate in decisions concerning the handling of your case and we will keep you informed of progress in your case. You have a right to courteous, professional services. We expect you to be prompt for appointments and court dates. You need to be fully truthful about the facts in your case. Please let us know if your address, telephone number, or income changes.

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

If you would like someone from FRLS to come and talk to a group/agency about our services and any particular area of law, please call (239)334-4554 or (800)476-8937, and ask for the Community Legal Education Coordinator.

EXHIBIT "A"