



## Southern California Legal Assistance Resource Guide

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This document lists resources that may be helpful to individuals and families with legal problems arising in Southern California. Information may have changed since this document and other resources linked from it were last updated. We cannot speak for the other organizations listed here as to their eligibility criteria, capacity, scope of services, or results.

Because ACLU SoCal serves an eight-county area of Southern California, this document focuses on resources serving the same area (Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura Counties).

## I. CRIMINAL JUSTICE, POLICE, and JAILS

### A. **Know-Your-Rights Resources:**

- Know-Your-Rights information on interacting with the police:  
<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/when-stopped-officer>
- Know-Your-Rights information on requesting police records:  
<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/access-ca-police-records>
- Know-Your-Rights information on being questioned by police, FBI, customs agents, or immigration officers: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/if-questioned-police-fbi-customs-agents-or-immigration-officers>
- Know-Your-Rights information on reproductive health care in California jails:  
<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/reproductive-health-care-california-jails>
- Know-Your-Rights information on the California Values Act (SB 54):  
<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/california-values-act-sb-54>

### B. **Criminal Justice, Police, & Jails Resources by Issue:**

*If you need help with issues related to criminal justice, police, or jails, use this list to identify resources by issue and by geography.*

- **If you or a loved one has experienced mistreatment by the police or sheriff's department, in or out of custody:**
  - Every California police department and sheriff's department must have a process to file a complaint against officers who act improperly. This is different from filing a lawsuit and can be done at the same time as pursuing legal claims related to an incident. Personnel complaints go into an officer's personnel file and can be discoverable in court cases involving that officer. If you wish to file a personnel complaint against one or more officers, you can contact the relevant agency (complaint process is often listed on the agency's website, or you can call to inquire about how to submit a complaint with that department).
  - Some law enforcement agencies have oversight entities that oversee the agency's actions and who may receive and investigate complaints. If you wish to file a complaint against one or more officers with an oversight entity, you can ordinarily file the complaint on the oversight entity's website. Please refer below for information on specific oversight entities in Southern California.

- In addition to submitting a complaint with the local law enforcement agency and oversight entity, you can submit a personnel complaint to the state Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST): <https://post.ca/gov/public-complaints>
- To find a private attorney who works on responding to police and sheriff misconduct (in or out of custody), you may wish to search the National Police Accountability Project (NPAP) attorney directory: <https://engage.nlg-npap.org/civicrm/profile?gid=10&reset=1>
  - The NPAP website also has a Manual for Victims of Police Misconduct: <https://www.nlg-npap.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NPAP-Manual-compact.pdf>.
  - The Prison Law Office has a resource for incarcerated people called “Information About Trying to Find a Lawyer”: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/658e00fdc5430956416678f7/t/67ba15d19cf71d0c4da960f7/1740248530130/lawyer-referral-requests-sept-2024.pdf>.
- **If you or a loved one had a bad experience with the Los Angeles Police Department**
  - You can file a complaint with the Office of the Inspector General, Los Angeles Police Commission (LAPD OIG), and/or the LAPD. All complaints of misconduct are accepted, including those made anonymously.
  - To file a complaint with the LAPD OIG, you can:
    - Call (213) 893-6400; (213) 893-6464; TTY: (213) 482-7002;
    - Email [OIGComplaint@lapd.online](mailto:OIGComplaint@lapd.online);
    - Send LAPD OIG a message through their mobile app, which is available via both the [Apple Store](#) and [Google Play](#);
    - Make an in-person complaint at 350 S. Figueroa Street (World Trade Center building), Suite 1002, Los Angeles, CA 90071. Call or check their website beforehand to confirm hours this office is open. <https://www.oig.lacity.org/how-to-file-a-complaint>.
    - Send a letter to 350 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1002, Los Angeles, CA 90071
  - To file a complaint with the LAPD itself, you can:
    - Print a complaint form in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#), [Tagalog](#), [Japanese](#), [Korean](#), or [Vietnamese](#), fill it out, and follow form instructions on how to submit;
    - Use LAPD’s online complaint form: <https://www.lapdonline.org/office-of-the-chief-of-police/professional-standards-bureau/report-employee-misconduct/>.
    - Call the LAPD’s complaint hotline: (800) 339-6868; or
    - Make an in-person complaint at any LAPD Community Police Station. You can find a list of stations at <https://www.lapdonline.org/find-your-local-police-station/>.
- **If you or a loved one had a bad experience with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, including in the LA County Jails**
  - You can file a complaint with the LA County Office of the Inspector General (County OIG) (LASD oversight) and/or the LASD. All complaints of misconduct are accepted, including those made anonymously.
  - To file a complaint with the County OIG, you can:
    - Use County OIG’s online complaint form <https://oig.lacounty.gov/file-a-complaint/file-a-standard-complaint/>;

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- Use County OIG’s anonymous complaint form: <https://oig.lacounty.gov/file-a-complaint/file-an-anonymous-complaint/>;
    - Call (213) 974-6100; or
    - Email [InspectorGeneral@oig.lacounty.gov](mailto:InspectorGeneral@oig.lacounty.gov).
  - To file a complaint with the LASD itself, you can:
    - Use LASD’s online complaint form: <https://oig.lacounty.gov/file-a-complaint/file-an-anonymous-complaint/>;
    - Call (800) 698-8255;
    - Make an in-person complaint at any LASD Patrol Station; or
    - Print a complaint form in **English** ([https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Complaint\\_Public-Complaint\\_written\\_form\\_SH-CR-596.pdf](https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Complaint_Public-Complaint_written_form_SH-CR-596.pdf)); or **Spanish** ([https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Complaint\\_Complaint-form\\_Espanol.pdf](https://lasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Complaint_Complaint-form_Espanol.pdf))
    - Fill it out, and mail to any LASD Patrol Station. You can find a list of Patrol Stations here: <https://lasd.org/stations/>
  - The Prison Law Office (PLO) is a non-profit that maintains a library of self-help materials for people incarcerated in California jails: <https://prisonlaw.com/>.
    - Visit PLO’s “Informational Resources – California Jails” page for help with small claims lawsuits, grievances, lawsuits for money damages, name changes, and more: <https://prisonlaw.com/informational-resources-california-jails>.
- **If you or a loved one had a bad experience with the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, including in the OC Jails**
  - You can file a complaint with the Office of Independent Review (OIR) (OC government oversight) and/or OCSD itself.
  - To submit a complaint to OIR:
    - Use OIR’s online complaint form: [https://na4.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAABLblqZhAsJvV-eT-M91uCVkbgXSHmfsD9osGRadycinM\\_iPgHsJqTJjwdCU1vq7m99A9fSxY\\*](https://na4.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAABLblqZhAsJvV-eT-M91uCVkbgXSHmfsD9osGRadycinM_iPgHsJqTJjwdCU1vq7m99A9fSxY*);
    - Download the OIR paper complaint form at [https://oir.oc.gov/sites/ocoir/files/2025-07/OIR-Complaint-Form\\_0.pdf](https://oir.oc.gov/sites/ocoir/files/2025-07/OIR-Complaint-Form_0.pdf), fill it out, and submit via mail/in person: Office of Independent Review, 601 N. Ross Street, Second Floor, Santa Ana, CA 92701; or
    - Email [oir@ocgov.com](mailto:oir@ocgov.com)
  - To submit a complaint to OCSD:
    - Download the OCSD paper complaint form (available in 26 languages at <https://www.ocsheriff.gov/commands-divisions/professional-services-command/professional-standards/how-file-complaint>), fill it out, and submit by mail or in person to: OCSD, Attn: Internal Investigations Unit, PO Box 449, Santa Ana, CA 92703;
    - Visit in-person at any OCSD Sheriff’s Station, which you can locate at <https://ocsheriff.gov/map>; or
    - Call (714) 834-5548 (during normal business hours); (714) 647-7000 (outside business hours)

- The Prison Law Office (PLO) is a non-profit that maintains a library of self-help materials for people incarcerated in California jails: <https://prisonlaw.com/>.
  - Visit PLO's Informational Resources – California Jails page for help with small claims lawsuits, grievances, lawsuits for money damages, name changes and more: <https://prisonlaw.com/informational-resources-california-jails>.
- **If you or a loved one had a bad experience with the Santa Ana Police Department, including in the Santa Ana City Jail**
  - You can file a complaint with the Santa Ana Police Oversight Commission and/or with SAPD itself.
  - To submit a complaint to the Santa Ana Police Oversight Commission, use the online complaint form: <https://www.santa-ana.org/police-oversight-commission-complaint-form/>.
  - To submit a complaint to SAPD itself:
    - Download the SAPD paper complaint form in **English** (<https://www.santa-ana.org/documents/citizens-complaint-procedure-and-form/>) or **Spanish** (<https://www.santa-ana.org/documents/citizens-complaint-procedure-and-form-spanish/>) and submit via mail/in person to: Santa Ana Police Department – M97 Internal Affairs Division, PO Box 1981, Santa Ana, CA 92702; or
    - Call the Santa Ana City Jail's Watch Commander: (714) 245-8700
- **If you or a loved one had a bad experience with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, including in the Santa Barbara County Jails**
  - You can look at resources related to a jails conditions class action called *Murray v. County of Santa Barbara*. This linked case update contains information about the case and the attorneys in the case: [https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/system/files/file-attachments/2024-Dec%20Murray%20v.%20Cty%20of%20Santa%20Barbara%20Case%20Update\\_0.pdf](https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/system/files/file-attachments/2024-Dec%20Murray%20v.%20Cty%20of%20Santa%20Barbara%20Case%20Update_0.pdf).
    - The attorneys recommend first filing your own grievance and then, if the problem is not resolved, writing to them at: Disability Rights California – Legal Advocacy Unit, Attn: *Murray v. County of Santa Barbara* Jail Case Team, 1831 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95811-4114.
    - You can file a complaint with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. To submit a complaint: Use the online complaint form in **English** (<https://www.sbsheriff.org/citizen-complaint-form/>) or **Spanish** (<https://www.sbsheriff.org/citizen-complaint-form-en-espanol/>); or
    - Print a complaint form in **English** (<https://www.sbsheriff.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/SH-533-Report-of-Citizen-Complaint-Revised-6-2020.pdf>) or **Spanish** (<https://www.sbsheriff.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/SH-533-Reporte-de-Queja-del-Cuidadano-5-2020-FINAL.pdf>), and mail it to: Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, Attn: Office of Professional Standards, 4434 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.
  - The Prison Law Office (PLO) also has many self-help resources on their website: <https://prisonlaw.com/>.

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- Visit PLO’s “Informational Resources – California Jails” page for help with small claims lawsuits, grievances, lawsuits for money damages, name changes and more: <https://prisonlaw.com/informational-resources-california-jails>
- **If you or a loved one had a bad experience with the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department, including in the Ventura County Jails**
  - You can file a complaint with the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department. To submit a complaint, you can:
    - Print a complaint form in **English** or **Spanish** at <https://sheriff.venturacounty.gov/citizen-complaint-form/>, fill it out, and mail it to the Headquarters or emailing it to [internal.affairs@ventura.org](mailto:internal.affairs@ventura.org);
    - Make a complaint in-person at any sheriff’s station or the Headquarters at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009; or
    - Request a complaint form at the Headquarters and fill it out and return it there.
  - The Prison Law Office (PLO) also has many self-help resources on their website: <https://prisonlaw.com/>.
    - Visit PLO’s “Informational Resources – California Jails” page for help with small claims lawsuits, grievances, lawsuits for money damages, name changes and more: <https://prisonlaw.com/informational-resources-california-jails>.
- **If you or a loved one had a bad experience with the Kern County Sheriff’s Department, including in the Kern County Jails**
  - You can file a complaint with the Kern County Sheriff’s Department Internal Affairs Unit: <https://www.kernsheriff.org/complaints>. To submit a complaint,
    - Make an in-person visit to Kern County Sheriff’s Office – Support Services Building, 34970 McMurtrey Avenue, Second Floor, Bakersfield, CA 93308
    - Call Internal Affairs at (661) 392-6791;
    - Email [internalaffairs@kernsheriff.org](mailto:internalaffairs@kernsheriff.org);
    - Fill out a complaint form online in **English** or **Spanish** at <https://www.kernsheriff.org/complaints>; or
    - Print a complaint form in **English** ([https://www.kernsheriff.org/Transparency/Complaints/Public%20Complaint%20Brochure\\_EN.pdf](https://www.kernsheriff.org/Transparency/Complaints/Public%20Complaint%20Brochure_EN.pdf)) or **Spanish** ([https://www.kernsheriff.org/Transparency/Complaints/Public%20Complaint%20Brochure\\_ES.pdf](https://www.kernsheriff.org/Transparency/Complaints/Public%20Complaint%20Brochure_ES.pdf)). Once completed, you can send the form by mail, email, or deliver it in person.
    - (Complaint forms are also available at every Sheriff’s station, Kern County courthouse, and every Kern County library.)
  - The Prison Law Office (PLO) also has many self-help resources on their website: <https://prisonlaw.com/>.
    - Visit PLO’s “Informational Resources – California Jails” page for help with small claims lawsuits, grievances, lawsuits for money damages, name changes and more: <https://prisonlaw.com/informational-resources-california-jails>.
- **If you or a loved one had a bad experience with the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department, including in the Riverside County Jails**

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- You can file a complaint with the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department at <https://www.riversidesheriff.org/301/Complaints>. To submit a complaint:
  - Make an in-person visit to the station where the incident occurred or, if in custody, the closest station near you;
  - Call 951-955-2400;
  - Write to 4095 Lemon Street, Riverside, CA 92501; or
  - Fill out an online complaint form at <https://www.riversidesheriff.org/FormCenter/Civilian-Commendation-and-Complaint-Form-15/Civilian-Complaint-Report-60>.
- The Prison Law Office (PLO) has an ongoing case about jail conditions in the Riverside County Jails and they may be able to assist you and/or help document your grievances.
  - Mail information to: Prison Law Office, General Delivery, San Quentin, CA 94964
- The Prison Law Office also has many self-help resources on their website at <https://prisonlaw.com/>.
  - Visit PLO’s “Informational Resources – California Jails” page for help with small claims lawsuits, grievances, lawsuits for money damages, name changes and more: <https://prisonlaw.com/informational-resources-california-jails>.
- **If you or a loved one had a bad experience with the San Bernardino Sheriff’s Department, including in the San Bernardino County Jails**
  - You can file a complaint with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department or the San Bernardino County Civil Grand Jury at <https://wp.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/divisions/citizen-complaint-procedure/>.
  - To file a complaint with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department you can:
    - Make an in-person visit to any Sheriff’s station or the Internal Affairs Division at 655 East 3<sup>rd</sup> St., San Bernardino, CA 92415; or
    - Print and fill out a complaint form in **English** (<https://wp.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/Civilian-Complaint-English-24.pdf>) or **Spanish** (<https://wp.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/Civilian-Complaint-Spanish-24.pdf>) and mail it to: San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner Department, Internal Affairs Division, 655 East 3<sup>rd</sup> St., San Bernardino, CA 92415-0061.
    - (If you cannot print out a form, you can call the Internal Affairs Division at (909) 387-3726 and ask them to mail one to you.)
  - To file a complaint with the San Bernardino County Civil Grand Jury, you can
    - Print and fill out a complaint form in **English** (<https://xcore.sbcounty.gov/grandjury/CTS/include/Forms/ComplaintBlank.pdf>) and mail it to: San Bernardino Grand Jury, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0244; or
    - Complete an online complaint form at <https://wp.sbcounty.gov/grandjury/file-a-complaint/>.
  - The Prison Law Office (PLO) has an ongoing case about jail conditions in the San Bernardino County Jails and they may be able to assist you and/or help document your grievances.
    - Mail information to: Prison Law Office, General Delivery, San Quentin, CA 94964

- The Prison Law Office also has many self-help resources on their website:  
<https://prisonlaw.com/>.
  - Visit PLO's "Informational Resources – California Jails" page for help with small claims lawsuits, grievances, lawsuits for money damages, name changes and more: <https://prisonlaw.com/informational-resources-california-jails>.
- **If you're seeking help with a criminal case, and the person has already been convicted**
  - Contact the appropriate resource depending on where the criminal case originated.
    - For criminal cases originating in **Los Angeles or Ventura Counties**: California Appellate Project – Los Angeles (<http://cap-la.org/>) -- (213) 243-0300
    - For criminal cases originating in **Orange, Riverside, or San Bernardino** Counties: Appellate Defenders, Inc. (<http://www.adi-sandiego.com/>) -- (619) 696-0282
    - For criminal cases originating in **Kern County** or the **Central Valley**: Central California Appellate Program (<http://www.capcentral.org/>) -- (916) 441-3792
  - Consider self-help resources from Prison Law Office (PLO) at <https://prisonlaw.com/>.
    - Visit PLO's California Post-Conviction and Criminal Law page for self-help resources covering post-conviction issues, including parole, habeas corpus, compassionate release, conduct credits, etc.:  
<https://prisonlaw.com/informational-resources-post-conviction-criminal-law>

### **C. California State Prison Resources:**

*If you're seeking help with a problem in a California state prison, you may wish to consider the following other resources:*

- **Prison Law Office (PLO)** (Nonprofit organization that publishes self-help resources for the benefit of people in prison, and advocates to improve treatment of people in prison).
  - You can contact PLO here: <https://prisonlaw.com/contact>
  - You can send mail to PLO here: Prison Law Office, General Delivery, San Quentin, CA 94964.
  - Here are some additional PLO resources:
    - **California Prison and Parole Law Handbook**: <https://prisonlaw.com/handbook>
    - **Informational Resources – California Prisons**: (resources including ADA accommodations, public benefits, use of force, compassionate release, etc.):  
<https://prisonlaw.com/informational-resources-california-prisons>
    - **Armstrong v. Newman** FAQ (lawsuit covering disability accommodations in CDCR):  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/658e00fdc5430956416678f7/t/682b5ffbdcca034b8a628e4b/1747673086073/Armstrong+FAQ+with+attachments+%28October+4+2022%29.pdf>.
    - **Coleman v. Newman** FAQ (lawsuit covering mental health care in CDCR):  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/658e00fdc5430956416678f7/t/68b754640d55b6489e56099e/1756845156035/25.09+COL+FAQ+with+update.pdf>.
- **CDCR Office of the Ombudsperson** (Division within CDCR that answers questions and sometimes addresses process issues on behalf of incarcerated people and their loved ones):
  - You can contact the CDCR Office of the Ombudsperson here:  
<https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/ombuds/ombuds/contact/> or call (916) 445-1773

- **CDCR Office of the Inspector General** (state oversight agency that focuses on addressing misconduct by CDCR employees):
    - You can contact the CDCR OIG here: <https://www.oig.ca.gov/connect/report-misconduct/> or call (800) 700-5952.
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## II. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

### A. **Know-Your-Rights Resources:**

- Know-Your-Rights information on K-12 public school students experiencing homelessness: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/students-experiencing-homelessness>
- Know-Your-Rights information on the rights of transgender and nonbinary people in California shelters: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/rights-transgender-and-nonbinary-people-ca-shelters>
- Know-Your-Rights information on public safety administrative citations in the City of Lancaster: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/public-safety-administrative-citations-city-lancaster>

### B. **Housing Problem Resources by Geography:**

*If you need help addressing a housing problem, use this list to identify resources in your area. Note that if you are facing an eviction, it is important to act immediately, as there are very short deadlines in eviction cases.*

- **Los Angeles County:**
  - **Stay Housed Los Angeles:** Stay Housed LA provides free legal services to eligible tenants facing eviction. They also provide educational resources and hold clinics to make sure tenants understand the eviction process and know their tenancy rights. <https://www.stayhousedla.org/> or 1 (888) 694-0040
  - **Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA):** LAFLA works to help people keep their homes in various ways, including: fighting illegal harassment by landlords, challenging unfair termination from programs such as Section 8, and getting tenants needed repairs made to their homes. Depending on the situation, LAFLA may be able to offer legal education, counsel and advice, representation at hearings, or help with negotiating to solve housing issues. <https://lafla.org/get-help/> or (800) 399-4529
  - **Inner City Law Center** has a Slum Housing program that assists tenants who are dealing with unsafe and unhealthy living conditions in rent-stabilized buildings in Los Angeles. <https://innercitylaw.org/get-help/> or (213) 891-2880
  - **Housing Rights Center** helps people prevent and fight housing discrimination. <https://www.housingrightscenter.org/about> or (800) 477-5977
- **Riverside and San Bernardino Counties:**
  - **Riverside Legal Aid:** Their eviction defense program is 100% remote. You can consult with one of their eviction defense attorneys by phone from anywhere in Riverside County. <https://riversidelegalaid.org/free-legal-assistance> or (951) 888-2039

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- **Inland Counties Legal Services:** Provides eviction defense services, as well as advice. Depending on the case, they may offer legal education, counsel and advice, representation at hearings, or help with negotiations to solve their housing issues. <https://www.inlandlegal.org/get-help/housing/> (including intake form) or (888) 245-4257
- **Fair Housing Council of Riverside:** They fight housing discrimination in Riverside County. <https://fairhousing.net/services/anti-discrimination/>
- **Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino:** Depending on the case, they provide legal assistance and representation in eviction defense, foreclosure defense, housing and homelessness, and landlord/tenant issues. They also host legal clinics and provide other self-help resources. <https://legalaidsb.org/get-help/> or (909) 889-7328
- **Orange County:**
  - **Community Legal Aid SoCal:** Provides legal assistance in the following areas:
    - Eviction Defense, Publicly Subsidized Housing, Substandard Housing, Landlord/Tenant Issues, Housing Discrimination, Illegal Utility Shutoff. <https://www.communitylegalsocal.org/> or (800) 834-5001 or (714) 571-5200
    - **Public Law Center:** Works to preserve and create affordable housing in Orange County, prevent homelessness, and assist tenants who are being unfairly evicted or who are subjected to sub-standard living conditions. <https://www.publiclawcenter.org/services/> or (714) 541-1010 ext. 303
    - **Fair Housing Council of OC:** Fights housing discrimination in Orange County. <https://www.fairhousingoc.org/> or (714) 569-0823 or 1 (800) 698-FAIR
- **Kern County:**
  - **Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance:** Provides legal assistance with eviction cases. They also operate a Fair Housing Law Project that investigates complaints of housing discrimination and helps survivors of housing discrimination pursue justice. <https://gbla.org/#home> or (661) 325-5943
- **Ventura County:**
  - **Ventura County Legal Aid:** Free legal aid for low-income, disabled, and/or elderly Ventura County residents. <https://www.vclegalaid.org/> or (805) 650-7592
  - **Housing Rights Center** helps people prevent and fight housing discrimination. <https://www.housingrightscenter.org/about> or (800) 477-5977
- **Santa Barbara County:**
  - **Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County:** Non-profit civil law firm whose mission is to provide high-quality civil legal services to low-income and other vulnerable residents. <https://lafsb.org/> or phone: Santa Barbara (805) 963-6754 | Lompoc (805) 736-6582 | Santa Maria (805) 922-9909
- **San Luis Obispo County:**
  - **San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation:** Non-profit legal aid organization that provides free legal assistance for civil and family law matters to low-income residents. (805) 543-5140 or <https://www.slolaf.org/>
- **Statewide Eviction Resources:**
  - **Tenant Power Toolkit:** This online toolkit helps California tenants prepare an answer to file in eviction cases. <https://tenantpowertoolkit.org/>

- **California Courts Self-Help Guide to Evictions:** Court website with information for tenants, including instructions and court forms. <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/eviction-tenant>

### **C. Complaints about Shelter and Transitional Housing:**

*If you need help with discrimination, unsafe conditions, or another problem in a shelter or transitional housing program, use this list to identify resources in the appropriate jurisdiction.*

- **Grievances to Shelter Management:** Every shelter should have an internal grievance process that allows residents to file a complaint and escalate an issue to the shelter's management to try to reach a resolution. This is generally the first step to try to reach a resolution. You should be able to ask any shelter staff member how to file a grievance.
- **Discrimination / Fair Housing Complaints:** California's fair housing laws apply in all shelters; the California Civil Rights Department (CRD) enforces laws that protect shelter residents from illegal discrimination and harassment. Discrimination complaints can be filed directly with CRD (in addition to filing an informal grievance with the shelter's management).
  - Here is a link to CRD's website, which has their intake phone number and complaint portal: <https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/>
  - Here is more information about shelter residents' rights to be free of discrimination: [https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2020/03/Discrimination-and-Harassment-in-Shelters\\_ENG.pdf](https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2020/03/Discrimination-and-Harassment-in-Shelters_ENG.pdf)
- **Los Angeles County Resources:**
  - **LAHSA:** You can report your shelter experience to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). LAHSA oversees shelter programs in Los Angeles County and has a grievance process you can use to document your concerns.
    - Grievance Support Information: <https://www.lahsa.org/support/grievance>
    - Online Grievance Form: <https://www.lahsa.org/support/contact-us?t=2-grievances>
    - Phone: (213) 225-8442 or (213) 683-3333
  - **Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA).** LAFLA may be able to assist with issues involving shelters in Los Angeles County.
    - Website: <https://lafla.org/get-help/>
    - Phone: (800) 399-4529 (Ask for their "Unhoused Justice Unit")
- **Orange County:**
  - **The Elder Law and Disability Rights Center (ELDR)** helps to resolve issues in Orange County shelters. <https://eldrcenter.org/>
  - **Orange County Social Services Agency:** Clients of Orange County Social Services Agency programs can file complaints here: <https://ssa.ocgov.com/about-us/our-agency-services/contact-us/civil-rights-complaints>

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## III. EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

### A. Know-Your-Rights Resources:

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- My School My Rights is a website maintained by ACLU SoCal with information for students to better understand their rights in CA public schools including LGBTQ+ student rights, rights when protesting, free speech, etc.): <https://www.myschoolmyrights.com/>
- Know-Your-Rights information on fair admissions and due process for charter school students: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/kyr-ab1360>
- Know-Your-Rights information on filing a complaint at school: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/how-file-complaint-school>  
Specific information on how to file a complaint through California’s Uniform Complaint Procedure: <https://www.myschoolmyrights.com/rights/#18>
- Know-Your-Rights information on the right to a free public education in California: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/free-public-education-california>
- Know-Your-Rights information on sex education: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/sex-education>
- Know-Your-Rights information on updating your name and gender in school records: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/updating-your-name-gender-school-records>
- Know-Your-Rights information on the rights of LGBTQ+ students in K-12 California public schools: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/lgbtq-student-rights-k-12-california-public-schools>
- Know-Your-Rights information on inclusive education and parental opt-out in California after *Mahmoud v. Taylor*: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/legal-faq-supporting-inclusive-education-california-after-mahmoud-v-taylor>

## B. Education-Rights Organizations:

*These other organizations work on education-related issues in Southern California.*

- **Alliance for Children’s Rights** (<https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/help/>): The Alliance fights to provide stability for children in foster care and those at risk of entering foster care by helping them obtain access to mental and medical health care, educational services, benefits, housing, and more. For those who cannot return to their birth parents, the Alliance provides assistance with adoption and legal guardianship. For young adults who “age out” of foster care without a stable connection to a supportive adult, the Alliance has programs and advocacy services specifically to guide young adults in their journey to independence.
- **Public Counsel** (<https://publiccounsel.org/>): Provides education advocacy for students and their families on a broad range of issues. Public Counsel prioritizes the representation of families with lower incomes, English Learners, students of color, students with disabilities who are denied appropriate access to Special Education services, students who are being pushed out of comprehensive schools, and students who are involved in the dependency or delinquency court systems. This may include direct representation to students receiving special education services and their families at all stages of the special education (IEP) process.
- **Parent Organization Network LA (PON)** (<https://www.parentnetwork-la.org/parent-network-la/>): PON is an educational advocacy coalition that created a directory to offer parents key resources and information from its non-profit partners and parent groups. Areas of expertise include: supporting parents with children in early education through high school; hosting parent support

groups or developing parents' leadership and advocacy (parent self-development); and providing extracurricular programs for youth.

- **California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA)** (<https://crla.org/>): provides assistance with special education processes, bullying and discrimination, language equity for English language learners, school discipline, and school complaint procedures.
- **Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County** (<https://nlsla.org/services/education-rights/>): helps with special education access, disciplinary hearings, foster youth advocacy, transfer issues, and other complaints involving public schools in the Antelope Valley.
- **Loyola Law School Youth Justice Education Clinic** (<https://www.lls.edu/academics/experientiallearning/clinics/theyouthjusticeeducationclinic/>): provides client-centered and holistic education advocacy for young people who are criminalized and pushed out of schools based on race, disability, and/or gender identity. YJEC works to dismantle the school-prison nexus by advocating for school stability, community-led accountability, and limiting law enforcement on all school campuses. To request assistance, email [cjlp@lls.edu](mailto:cjlp@lls.edu).

#### IV. FIRST AMENDMENT & DEMOCRACY

##### A. **Know-Your-Rights Resources:**

- Know-Your-Rights information on tenants' speech rights: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/tenants-speech-rights>
- Know-Your-Rights information on protest rights: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/know-your-protest-rights>
- Know-Your-Rights information on social media censorship by a government official: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/social-media-censorship-government-official>
- Know-Your-Rights information on government social media censorship: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/govt-social-media-censorship>
- Know-Your-Rights information on local government meetings: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/local-government-meetings>
- Know-Your-Rights information for photographers: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/photographers>
- Know-Your-Rights information on voting rights: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/voting-rights-101>
- First Amendment Coalition Primer on the Brown Act (open meetings law): <https://firstamendmentcoalition.org/handbook/california-brown-act-primer/>

##### B. **First Amendment and Voting Rights Organizations:**

*These other organizations work on First Amendment, open government, and voting rights issues in Southern California.*

- **First Amendment Coalition (FAC):** <https://firstamendmentcoalition.org/> The First Amendment Coalition promotes free expression, freedom of the press and the people's right to know, which is protected by statutes like the Brown Act and the California Public Records Act, through public advocacy, public education, and litigation

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- **Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE):** <https://www.thefire.org/> FIRE works to protect freedom of expression and thought through public advocacy and litigation. It has an emphasis on protecting freedom of expression for students, but it also has an initiative to promote free expression off-campus.
- **Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU):** <https://www.au.org/> AU is dedicated to defending the separation of church and state and protecting the foundational American principle of freedom of religion — including the right to believe or not believe.
- **Freedom From Religion Foundation (FRFF):** <https://ffrf.org> The purposes of the FRFF are to promote the constitutional principle of separation of state and church through litigation and to educate the public on matters relating to nontheism.

### C. **Voting Resources:**

*If you encounter a problem while voting, consider contacting these organizations.*

- **For general issues with voting as well as KYR resources,** people can contact the Election Protection Hotline: <https://866ourvote.org/> or by phone:
  - English (866) OUR-VOTE [\(866\) 687-8683](tel:(866)687-8683)
  - Spanish/English (888) VE-Y-VOTA [\(888\) 839-8682](tel:(888)839-8682)
  - Asian Languages/English (888) API-VOTE [\(888\) 274-8683](tel:(888)274-8683)
  - Arabic/English (844) YALLA-US [\(844\) 925-5287](tel:(844)925-5287)
- **For voting issues for people with disabilities,** people can contact Disability Rights California: <https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/post/voting-hotline>, phone (888) 569-7955 or TTY (800) 719-5798
- **For concerns with discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity** in voting, people can contact MALDEF: <https://www.maldef.org/contact-us/>

## V. GENDER, SEXUALITY, & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

### A. **Know-Your-Rights Resources:**

- Know-Your-Rights information on the rights of transgender and nonbinary people in California shelters: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/rights-transgender-and-nonbinary-people-ca-shelters>
- Know-Your-Rights information on restrooms: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/restrooms>
- Know-Your-Rights information on the rights of LGBTQ+ students in K-12 California public schools: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/lgbtq-student-rights-k-12-california-public-schools>
- Know-Your-Rights information on updating your name and gender in school records: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/updating-your-name-gender-school-records>
- Know-Your-Rights information on inclusive education and parental opt-out in California after *Mahmoud v. Taylor*: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/legal-faq-supporting-inclusive-education-california-after-mahmoud-v-taylor>

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- Know-Your-Rights information on sex education: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/sex-education>
- Know-Your-Rights information on LGBTQ+ rights in California in response to federal attacks: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/lgbtq-rights-california-amidst-recent-executive-orders>
- Know-Your-Rights information on sex worker rights in California: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/sex-worker-rights-california>
- Know-Your-Rights information on abortion care in California: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/abortion-care-california>
- Know-Your-Rights information on lactation rights in California: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/lactation-kyr>
- Know-Your-Rights information on lactation rights at work: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/lactation-rights-work>
- Know-Your-Rights information on reproductive health care in California jails: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/reproductive-health-care-california-jails>
- Know-Your-Rights information on paid leave in California: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/paid-leave-california>

## **B. Family Policing/Child Welfare System Resources:**

*If you're having an issue with the family policing/child welfare system, try consulting these resources.*

- Information & Self-Help Resources:
  - **California “Child Welfare” Investigations 101** (<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/california-child-welfare-investigations-101>) – A resource outlining how “child welfare” investigations work in California and an overview of the basic rights of parents during such investigations
  - **California Mandatory Reporting Laws** (<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/california-mandatory-reporting-laws>) – An overview of CA mandatory reporting laws and what they require
  - **Child Abuse Central Index** (<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/child-abuse-central-index>) – A resource explaining basic rights relating to the California Child Abuse Central Index
  - **Other materials** from East Bay Family Defenders: <https://prisonerswithchildren.org/eastbayfamilydefenders/>.
- Foster Care System Resources:
  - **California Foster Care Ombudsperson’s office** at <https://advokids.org/legal-tools/accountability/california-ombudsman-for-foster-care/>.
- Los Angeles County Resources:
  - **LA Dependency Lawyers Hopeline** (Empowers parents with information about what to expect, and options for how to self-advocate, during a Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) investigation): <https://www.ladlinc.org/hopeline> or call (323) 790-LADL [5235]
  - **Parent Support Line** (Know Your Rights information and connection to additional resources): <https://www.parentsupportline.org/>

- **Los Angeles Mandated Supporting Initiative:**  
<https://supportingfamilies.lacounty.gov/information-for-families>
- **Family Support and Advocacy Center:** (for former foster youth with closed dependency cases who are now expecting or parenting children of their own) <https://fsacla.org/>

### **C. Discrimination and Harassment Resources:**

*if you're concerned about discrimination or harassment based on LGBTQ+ identity, consider contacting these organizations.*

- **California Civil Rights Department** (<https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/complaintprocess/how-to-file-a-complaint/>) – state agency that handles complaints of discrimination by employers, business establishments including health care providers, landlords and other housing providers, and state/local government agencies or programs, on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and other characteristics protected under California law.
- **LA LGBT Center Legal Clinic** (<https://lalgbtcenter.org/services/legal-services/legal-clinic-lawyer-referral/>) – provides brief virtual consultations with attorneys on a variety of issues, and/or referrals to local private attorneys interested in taking specific types of cases
- **National Center for LGBTQ+ Rights** (<https://www.nclrights.org/get-help/>) and **Lambda Legal** (<https://lambdalegal.org/helpdesk/>) – both provide legal information and referrals to LGBTQ-friendly local private attorneys interested in taking specific types of cases. (While the ACLU provides legal information where we can, we do *NOT* operate a lawyer referral service.)
- **Bet Tzedek Legal Services** (<https://bettzedek.org/our-services/justice-for-transgender-individuals/>) in Los Angeles has a Transgender Legal Rights Program that helps transgender people with discrimination in housing, employment, or public accommodations, as well as health insurance and benefits denials and legal name and gender marker changes.
- **California vs. Hate** (<https://www.cavshate.org/>): Free state government program that helps survivors of hate crimes and other hate incidents in California get support, document and report what happened, and understand their next step options.

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## **VI. IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS**

### **A. Know-Your-Rights Resources:**

- Know-Your-Rights information on ICE agents at your door: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/ice-agents-your-door>
- Know-Your-Rights information on being questioned by police, FBI, customs agents, or immigration officers: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/if-questioned-police-fbi-customs-agents-or-immigration-officers>
- Know-Your-Rights information on U.S. airports and ports of entry: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/us-airports-and-ports-entry>
- Know-Your-Rights information on immigration agents on buses and trains: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/immigration-agents-buses-and-trains>
- Know-Your-Rights information on what's next for TPS holders: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/whats-next-tps-holders>

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- Know-Your-Rights information on the California Values Act (SB 54): <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/california-values-act-sb-54>
- Know-Your-Rights information on AB 60 driver’s licenses: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/your-rights-ab-60-drivers-license>

**B. For Help with Immigration Enforcement or Detention Issues:**

*If you are looking for legal advice or representation in an immigration case, you may wish to consult the following lists to find service providers operating in Southern California:*

- **Immigration Advocates:** <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory/>
- **The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers’ Guild:** <https://nipnlg.org/directory>
- **The American Immigration Lawyers’ Association:** <https://www.aialawyer.com/>

**C. To report local ICE activity, please contact your local rapid response network:**

- **Immigrant Defenders Rapid Response Legal Resource Hotline:** (213) 833-8283 <https://www.immdef.org/blog/immdefrrhotline>
    - (Provides rapid response legal support for Southern California community members detained by immigration enforcement agents)
  - **Kern County Rapid Response Network:** (661) 432-2230 <http://www.rapidresponsekern.com>
  - **Valley Watch Rapid Response Network:** (includes Kern County) (559) 206-0151
  - **805 Immigrant Rapid Response Network:** (Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties) (805) 870-8855
  - **VC Defensa:** (Ventura County) (805) 296-1119
  - **Los Angeles County Rapid Response (CHIRLA):** (888) 624-4752
  - **Boyle Heights Immigrants’ Rights Network:** (323) 805-1049 <https://www.instagram.com/boyleheightsirn>
  - **ORALE (Long Beach):** (562) 276-0267
  - **Orange County Rapid Response Network:** (714) 881-1558
  - **San Bernardino/Riverside Counties (IC4IJ):** (909) 361-4588
- For more resources if you or a loved one has been detained by ICE, you may wish to consult <https://www.ccijjustice.org/community-resources>.

**VII. DISABILITY JUSTICE**

**A. Know-Your-Rights Resources:**

- Know-Your-Rights information on paid sick days in the City of Los Angeles: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/paid-sick-days-city-los-angeles>

**B. Disability Discrimination and Unmet Access Needs:**

*If you’re concerned about disability discrimination or an unmet access need, you may wish to consult these resources:*

- **Disability Rights California** Helps Californians with disabilities access their rights and services. <https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/> or Phone: (800) 776-5746 or TTY: (800) 719-5798
- **LOS ANGELES COUNTY ADA Compliance Hotline** (for help with access to LA County services) Phone: (213) 202-6944 or TTY: (855) 872-0443
- **Mental Health Advocacy Services** (assists people with mental health disabilities in LA County) <https://www.mhas-la.org/> or (213) 389-2077

\*See also [Health Care](#) and [Public Benefits](#) sections

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## VIII. EMPLOYMENT

### A. **Know-Your-Rights Resources:**

- Know-Your-Rights information on paid leave from work in California: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/paid-leave-california>
- Know-Your-Rights information on sex worker rights in California: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/sex-worker-rights-california>
- Know-Your-Rights information on lactation rights at work in California: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/lactation-rights-work>
- Know-Your-Rights information on paid sick days in the City of Los Angeles: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/paid-sick-days-city-los-angeles>

### B. **State Agency Resources:**

- **California Civil Rights Department** (<https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/complaintprocess/>) – state agency that handles complaints of discrimination or harassment in the workplace
- **California Department of Labor Standards Enforcement** (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/howtoreportviolationtofofe.htm>) – state agency that handles complaints of wage theft, failure to provide breaks or overtime pay, etc.

### C. **Finding an Employment Lawyer**

To find an employment attorney, you can search the databases of the

- National Employment Lawyers Association (Find-A-Lawyer - NELA Exchange <https://exchange.nela.org/memberdirectory/findalawyer>); and/or
- California Employment Lawyers Association (Find a Lawyer: <https://cela.org/?pg=FindaLawyer>)

### D. **Nonprofit Employment Law Resources:**

*Nonprofit organizations that provide information, brief advice, and/or representation on employment law issues.*

- Legal Aid at Work: <https://legalaidthatwork.org/our-mission-and-how-we-work/> or (800) 880-8047
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA: <https://www.advancingjustice-la.org/> or (888) 349-9695

- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles: <https://lafla.org/who-we-are/> or (800) 399-4529
  - Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County: <https://nlscla.org/who/> or (800) 433-6251
  - California Rural Legal Assistance: <https://www.crla.org/about-us> or (800) 337-0690
  - Public Counsel: <https://publiccounsel.org/clinics/workplace-rights-advice-clinic-for-women-non-binary-workers/> (use website to sign up for weekly clinics for female & nonbinary workers)
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## IX. HEALTH CARE & HEALTH INSURANCE PROBLEMS

### A. Know-Your-Rights Resource:

- Know-Your-Rights information on paid sick days in the City of Los Angeles: <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/paid-sick-days-city-los-angeles>

### B. Healthcare and Insurance Resources by Geography:

*If you need help addressing healthcare and/or insurance resources, use this list to find resources in your area.*

- Statewide Resources:
  - **Health Consumer Alliance:** The Health Consumer Alliance (HCA) is a statewide partnership that offers Free Over the Phone or In-Person Assistance to help California residents struggling to get or maintain health coverage and resolve problems with their plans. HCA can help Californians apply for coverage, find the appropriate doctor or provider, dispute denials of coverage for health services, and address and resolve billing problems. <https://healthconsumer.org/> or phone (888) 804-3536 or TTY (877) 735-2929
  - **California Department of Managed Healthcare:** This is the state agency that regulates HMOs and other managed health care plans in California. You can ask DMHC for an Independent Medical Review if your managed health care plan denies, changes, or delays your request for medical services, refuses to pay for emergency treatment, or declines to cover experimental or investigational treatment for a serious medical condition. You can also file a Consumer Complaint with DMHC if you have other issues with your managed health care plan, such as a bad experience with a doctor, language access issues, billing problems, or difficulty finding an in-network provider for the services you need. <https://www.dmhc.ca.gov/FileaComplaint.aspx> or (888) 466-2219
- Los Angeles County Resources:
  - **L.A. Center for Health Care Rights** (information, education, and counseling regarding Medicare to participants and their families in LA County): <https://healthcarerights.org/about> or (213) 383-4519
  - **The Los Angeles County Dispute Resolution Program** provides free mediation services to County residents who want help resolving billing and other disputes with insurance or health care providers. <https://dcba.lacounty.gov/countywidedrp/>
- Kern County Resource:
  - **Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance:** Provides legal assistance with health care access and coverage. They may be able to help with: filing a grievance or complaint against a health plan, understanding health care plan options, challenging a service denial, billing

or affordability issues, untimely access, geographical access, disability access, or language access issues, in-Home Supportive Services denials, and Medi-Cal denials.  
<https://gbla.org/#home> or (661) 325-5943

- **Orange County Resource:**
    - **Public Law Center** provides legal assistance with access to health care, including Medi-Cal and Medicare issues, Covered California issues, private insurance issues, advance health care directives, records access, and navigating coverage options.  
<https://www.publiclawcenter.org/services/> or (714) 541-1010 ext. 373
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## X. JUDICIAL COMPLAINTS

The California Commission on Judicial Performance investigates complaints of judicial misconduct. Some examples of judicial misconduct are rude, abusive, and improper treatment of lawyers, litigants, witnesses, jurors, court staff or others, failure to disqualify when the law requires, receipt of information about a case outside the presence of one party, abuse of contempt or sanctions, and delay in decision-making. Judicial misconduct may include off-the-bench conduct such as criminal behavior, improper use of a judge's authority, publicly commenting on a pending or expected court case, and giving or receiving bribes or favors. Link to online complaint process: [https://cjp.ca.gov/file\\_a\\_complaint/](https://cjp.ca.gov/file_a_complaint/)

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## XI. FAMILY LAW including GUARDIANSHIP and DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### A. **Know-Your-Rights Resources:**

- Know-Your-Rights information on California "Child Welfare" Investigations:  
<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/california-child-welfare-investigations-101>
- Know-Your-Rights information on California mandatory reporting laws:  
<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/california-mandatory-reporting-laws>
- Know-Your-Rights information on the Child Abuse Central index:  
<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/child-abuse-central-index>

### B. **Family Law, Guardianship, and Domestic Violence Resources by Geography:**

*If you need help addressing a housing problem, use this list to identify resources in your area.*

- **Statewide:**
  - **Public Counsel:** (runs a self-help guardianship clinic that helps with petitions for guardianship over children, petitions for visitation, and termination of guardianship)  
<https://publiccounsel.org/clinics/guardianship-clinic/>
  - **LA LGBT Center:** (provides LGBTQ+-specific, trauma-informed, client-centered legal services and advocacy for LGBTQ+ victims of crimes including domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, as well as mental health support)  
<https://lalgbtcenter.org/services/survivor-services/domestic-violence-sexual-assault-and-stalking/> or (323) 993-7649

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- Los Angeles County:
  - **Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law:** (serves low-income residents of Los Angeles County in need of legal assistance in child custody and visitation, child support, parentage, restraining orders, divorce, property division, and spousal support) <https://lafla.org/get-help/domestic-violence-family-law/> or (213) 388-7515
  - **Legal Aid Foundation of LA, Family Law Unit** (provides self-help resources on how to seek a domestic violence restraining order, and supports survivors who qualify with legal assistance). <https://lafla.org/get-help/domestic-violence-family-law/> or (323) 801-7989
  - **Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center:** (helps people who qualify with adoption, divorce, child and spousal support, custody and visitation, domestic and sexual abuse, establishing parentage, probate guardianship) <https://levittquinn.org/get-help/> or (213) 482-1800
  - **Bet Tzedek Legal Services:** <https://bettzedek.org/our-services/> (helps with estate and other planning, supported decision-making, and conservatorships for seniors and dependent adults) <https://bettzedek.org/our-services/> or (323) 939-0506
- Kern County Resource:
  - **Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance:** Provides legal assistance with restraining orders, child custody and visitation issues, and other matters arising from domestic violence. They can also help caregivers obtain legal guardianship over children. <https://gbla.org/#home> or (661) 325-5943
- Orange County Resource:
  - **Public Law Center (PLC):** PLC assists litigants with family law issues including: Divorce, Custody, Child/Spousal Support, Marital Asset and Debt Division, Grandparent Visitation, Guardianship, Limited Conservatorships and Restraining Order Matters. <https://www.publiclawcenter.org/services/> or Leave a voicemail at: (714) 541-1010 ext. 374 for abuse, abduction, and restraining order matters, and ext. 367 for all other family law matters.
- Riverside County Resource:
  - **Riverside Legal Aid:** Riverside Legal Aid assists qualifying individuals with domestic violence restraining orders, child custody and visitation, child and spousal support, paternity/parentage petitions, conservatorships and guardianships, and dissolutions). <https://riversidelegalaid.org/> or (951) 682-7968 (Riverside office) or (760) 347-9456 (Indio office)
- San Luis Obispo County:
  - **SLO Legal Assistance Foundation:** Assists qualifying individuals with domestic violence restraining orders and related matters, conservatorships and guardianships. <https://www.slolaf.org/gethelp> or (805) 543-5140
- Santa Barbara County:
  - **Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County:** Assists qualifying individuals with domestic violence restraining orders, conservatorships and guardianships. <https://lafsbcb.org/> or (805) 963-6754 (Santa Barbara office) or (805) 736-6582 (Lompoc office) or (805) 922-9909 (Santa Maria office)
- Ventura County:

- **Ventura Legal Aid:** Assists qualifying individuals with select family law matters. <https://www.vclegalaid.org/contact-ventura-county-legal-aid/> or (805) 650-7592
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## XII. GOVERNMENT BENEFITS and PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

*If you need help accessing benefits or addressing a benefits problem, use this list to identify resources in your area.*

- Statewide Resource:
  - **California Rural Legal Assistance:** <https://crla.org> or (800) 337-0690
- Los Angeles County:
  - **Inner City Law Center:** <https://innercitylaw.org/get-help/> (specifically helps with benefits access for people in LA County who are unhoused, veterans, and/or living with HIV) (213) 891-2880
  - **Neighborhood Legal Services-LA:** (helps LA County residents with CalFresh, CalWORKS, GAIN, General Relief, START, CAPI, RCA, SSI, SSDI, Title II, and Public Charge issues) <https://nls-la.org/services/public-benefits/> or (800) 433-6251
  - **Mental Health Advocacy Services:** (assists people with mental health disabilities in LA County) <https://www.mhas-la.org/> or (213) 389-2077
  - **Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) Government Benefits Unit:** <https://lafla.org/get-help/government-benefits/> or (213) 640-3883
- Kern County:
  - **Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance:** Provides legal assistance with accessing Social Security, CalWORKS, CalFresh, General Assistance, Medi-Cal, and other benefits programs. <https://gbla.org/#home> or (661) 325-5943
- Orange County:
  - **Public Law Center:** Helps veterans with accessing VA benefits and select other issues. <https://www.publiclawcenter.org/services/> or (714) 541-1010 ext. 301
- San Bernardino and Riverside Counties:
  - **Inland Counties Legal Services:** Provides legal assistance with State and County benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Cessations (Loss of Benefits) and Overpayments; Denial, discontinuance or reduction of benefits with the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP), Foster Care, and Kin-Gap; General Relief issues and disputes; County Assistance Loans. <https://www.inlandlegal.org/get-help/public-benefits/> or (888) 245-4257
- San Luis Obispo County:
  - **SLO Legal Assistance Foundation:** Assists qualifying individuals with government benefits appeals (including problems with Medi-Cal, SSI, SSDI, CAPI, IHSS, CalFresh, CFAP, and CalWorks). <https://www.slolaf.org/gethelp> or (805) 543-5140
- Santa Barbara County:

- **Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County:** Assists individuals experiencing homelessness with accessing benefits. <https://lafsb.org/> or (805) 963-6754 (Santa Barbara office) or (805) 736-6582 (Lompoc office) or (805) 922-9909 (Santa Maria office)
  - **Ventura County:**
    - **Ventura Legal Aid:** Assists qualifying individuals with SSI and disability benefits issues. <https://www.vclegalaid.org/contact-ventura-county-legal-aid/> or (805) 650-7592
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### XIII. HOW TO FIND AN ATTORNEY

- If you need help finding a private attorney, you may wish to contact the following referral services:
  - **SmartLaw** (<https://smartlaw.org/?pg=ClientReferrals>): operated by the Los Angeles County Bar Association and serving Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, and Orange Counties
  - **Orange County Bar Association Lawyer Referral & Information Service** (<http://irisoc.org/>): serving Orange County
  - **Riverside County Bar Association Lawyer Referral & Information Service** (<https://riversidecountybar.com/public-services/lawyer-referral-service>): serving Riverside County
  - **San Bernardino County Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service** (<https://www.sbcba.org/lrs>): serving San Bernardino County
  - **San Luis Obispo County Bar Association Lawyer Referral & Information Service** (<https://slobar.org/information-and-referral-service/>): serving SLO County
  - **Ventura County Bar Association Legal Referral Service** (<https://www.vcba.org/public-lawyer-referral/>): serving Ventura County
  - We unfortunately don't know of an equivalent resource serving Kern County.
- If you need an attorney but are concerned that you cannot afford one, you may wish to visit [LawHelpCA.org](http://LawHelpCA.org) to learn about legal aid organizations offering free representation in specific situations to people who qualify. You should also be aware that in many fields (such as employment law and personal injury law), private attorneys commonly take cases “on contingency,” meaning that they charge their clients nothing up front, but if successful they collect a percentage of the client’s settlement or verdict as an attorney’s fee.