

MidPenn Legal Services
Berks County Office Information Sheet

Mission: We are the legal safety net for low-income persons and for domestic violence survivors in Berks County. We aim to provide the best service available to the greatest number of clients. We advise and represent on civil issues: domestic violence, custody, housing, health care, consumer, elder law and public benefits. We do not handle criminal cases.

Funding: Government funding is our primary source of funding. The Pennsylvania Legal Assistance Network (PLAN) provides 45% of our funds. PLAN distributes IOLTA and Title XX monies. The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) provides 33% of our funds. Additional monies are obtained from local groups, private foundations, and individuals. We receive funding through the Berks County Bar Association and AIDSNet (the regional Ryan White Act Funding Coalition).

Berks County Is Changing:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2006</u>
County residents living at poverty level	4.7%	11.4%
Reading residents living at poverty level	26.1%	35.1%
Families earning less than \$10,000 a year	2,166	4,590
Food Stamp recipients	5.2%	9.2%
Eligible for Medical Assistance	8.9%	14.3%
Poverty Population	34,201	43,652

The Work: We provide critical help for those with critical needs. The largest part of our caseload involves family law cases. Below, you will find a chart which shows the numbers and types of cases handled by the Berks County staff and pro bono attorneys in calendar year 2005.

Major Case Type	MidPenn	Pro Bono	Total
Consumer	197	85	282
Education	1	0	1
Employment	0	2	2
Family	1138	137	1275
Juvenile	1	0	1
Health	23	0	23
Housing	423	30	453
Income Maintenance	446	23	469
Other / Multiple Topics	21	2	23
Totals	2250	279	2529

Staff in MidPenn office in Berks County:

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 Valerie West, Attorney
 Judith Kline, Attorney
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