

Modest Means Referrals, 2008

Who Ya Gonna Call?

I. First, a person who needs legal help can call MidPenn Legal Services, 232-0581, to see if s/he is eligible for free legal services and/or the Pro Bono Program (all our pro bono referrals are screened by MidPenn).

- A. Income at less than or equal to the federally-defined poverty level, and
- B. Issue must be one they address (e.g., not criminal).

II. If caller is not eligible for free services, s/he can CALL (we do not take walk-ins) the DCBA Lawyer Referral Services, 232-7536

A. If s/he is not eligible for MidPenn, I screen the caller to see if s/he is eligible for our Modest Means Panel (lawyers who agree to take cases at \$50/hour) – caller must ask for “Lawyer Referral” (since pro bono clients ask for me by name)

- 1. It must not be a fee-generating matter, and
- 2. S/He must have income at less than or equal to twice the federally-defined poverty level, and
- 3. S/He must be able to pay (many callers are unable to do this!):
 - A. The \$50/hour fee,
 - B. A reasonable down payment (might be around \$500), and
 - C. Any filing fees or other expenses.
- B. I refer caller to a regular-priced attorney if
 - 1. S/He is not eligible for Modest Means Panel, or
 - 2. S/He is eligible for Modest Means but can not pay the fees noted above (then s/he is free to work out whatever payment arrangements s/he wants).
- C. In addition, for any call, I usually try to
 - 1. If the caller is > 60, refer them to AAA, 255-2790, for free legal help.
 - 2. Provide a sympathetic ear and listen to their concerns for as long as I can (unless another call is waiting).
 - 3. Encourage them to go to PaLawHelp.org and/or Courthouse Self Help Center.
 - 4. Encourage them to try free mediation through Neighborhood Dispute settlement, 322-8255.
 - 5. Give them legal information (not advice).
 - 6. Refer them to other agencies, if appropriate (Contact Helpline, 652-4400),

Sandy Ballard, Esq.
Public Services Coordinator
Dauphin County Bar Association
213 North Front Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101
(717) 232-7536

Please note: We do NOT have voicemail before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m.

Fax: 234-4582

sandy@dcba-pa.org