

Modest Means Program Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____

in Household _____

Annual Household Income \$ _____

Verification of Household Income. Attorney may request last three month's pay stubs, last year's tax return, or other form(s) of proof of income to verify eligibility for the program.

Type of Case:

- Bankruptcy Chapter 7 Chapter 13
- Consumer Law
- Deed Transfers
- Divorce property < \$100k no property
- Expungement
- Guardianship Proceedings
- Landlord/Tenant
- Living Will / Health Care Directive
- Mortgage Foreclosures
- PFA Hearing (defendants only)
- Power of Attorney
- Simple Will
- Support post-conf. conf/agreement only
- Custody (post-Limited Rep. program only)
- Uncontested Divorce (no property)
- Unemployment Compensation

Name of other Party _____

Referral Source. How did you find out about the Modest Means Program? (check one below):

- Legal Aid Court/Magistrate
- Attorney Brochure
- Other _____

Date of Referral _____

Washington County Bar Association

Founded in 1892, the Washington County Bar Association strives to promote justice, professional excellence and respect for the law; improve public understanding of the legal system; facilitate access to legal services; and serve the members of the Bar Association.

WCBA Membership

460 lawyers and judges are members of the Washington County Bar Association



Program Partners

Program provided with cooperation of Southwestern PA Legal Services, 724-225-6170



WCBA Lawyer Referral

Call 724-225-6710 for more information about the Modest Means and other referral programs



This pamphlet has been issued as a public service of the Washington County Bar Association. It is intended to inform and not to advise. Information is current as of 8/20/2019; program operations and fees are subject to change.



Modest Means Program

Application
and Guide

for the
Public

Washington
County Bar
Association

724-225-6710
(No Walk-ins)

Program Goals

Sometimes, you can't afford not to have an attorney. This Modest Means Program has been developed to assist people who do not qualify for legal aid and who do not have — or perceive that they do not have — the financial resources to hire an attorney. This program offers an opportunity for you to access attorneys who have agreed to accept referrals on a reduced-fee basis in specified areas of law.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).....

How do I find out if I am eligible?

Contact the Bar Association at 724-225-6710. You will be asked to provide information about your income and family size. If eligible, you will be referred to the Bar Association's Modest Means Program. Once referred to an attorney, the attorney may ask you to verify your income. To be eligible an individual must fall **between** 125% and 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Guidelines, as of 3/2019-3/2020;

Fam Sz	125%	(annual)	200%	(annual)
1	\$1,301	\$15,613	\$2,082	\$24,980
2	\$1,761	\$21,138	\$2,818	\$33,820
3	\$2,222	\$26,663	\$3,555	\$42,660
4	\$2,682	\$32,188	\$4,292	\$51,500
5	\$3,142	\$37,713	\$5,028	\$60,340
<i>Ea addl</i>	+\$460	+\$5,525	+\$737	+\$8,840

How can I be sure of a lawyer's

qualifications? All members of the Modest Means Panel are members in good standing with the Washington County Bar Association. To participate in the program, attorneys must be in practice for more than one year, be in good standing with the state Supreme Court, and certify that they have attained a level of competency in the program's case areas.

How much will it cost, and what if the

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

attorney and I disagree about fees? The attorney may charge a consultation fee no higher than the applicable Modest Means hourly rate and a retainer to be set at his/her discretion after a review of the case but no more than 10 times the amount of the applicable Modest Means hourly rate or the full amount of the Fixed Fee plus anticipated reimbursable costs. The actual services to be performed by the attorney will be determined by a Fee Agreement, which both you and the attorney will sign. In the event that you misrepresent your income, the attorney will 1) report your ineligibility for the Modest Means program and 2) propose a new Fee Agreement at his/her usual rates. Each of you would agree to submit disputes to WCBA's Fee Dispute Committee for binding arbitration.

Current case-types and rates:

***additional costs and/or filing fees may apply**

FIXED FEE CASES:

Uncontested Divorce (no property)....up to \$350*
 PFA Hearing (defendants only)up to \$300*
 Bankruptcy (Chapter 7).....up to \$800*
 Bankruptcy (Chapter 13).....up to \$2,000*
 Support (Conference/Agreement only)..... \$150*
 Simple Will \$75*
 Living Will..... \$75*
 Power of Attorney \$75*
 Deed Transfers \$75*
 Unempl. Comp (1st ref. hearing only)..... \$225*

HOURLY RATE CASES:

Custody (post-Ltd Rep Program).....\$75/hour*
Eligible Custody cases start w/ Ltd Rep Program; Call SWPA Legal Services at 724-225-6170 to determine eligibility for Ltd Rep Custody Program
 Divorce w/ property (< \$100,000) \$75/hour*
 Expungements \$75/hour*
 Guardianship Proceedings \$75/hour*
 Support (Post-Conference)..... \$75/hour*
 Landlord / Tenant..... \$75/hour*
 Unemployment Compensation \$75/hour*
 Mortgage Foreclosures \$75/hour*
 Consumer Law..... \$75/hour*

What if I am unhappy with my attorney?

The relationship is between you and your attorney. You may terminate your relationship at any time. You both will have signed an

Other Resources

engagement letter which will govern the expectations of both you and your attorney during the handling of your legal action.

What if I am not eligible, or a case that is not covered by this program? To find out if you are eligible for free legal assistance for civil cases, call SWPA Legal Services at 1-877-725-4472 (fair housing hotline) or 724-225-6170; toll-free 1-800-846-0871

If you would like to hire a private attorney, call the Washington County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service at 724-225-6710

If you have been charged with a criminal offense and cannot afford a lawyer, you may qualify for representation by a public defender: Public Defender's Office 724-228-6818

Other agencies may also be able to assist you with information:

Area Agency on Aging Legal Services for the Elderly (for ages 60+) 724-228-7080

Women's Shelter Domestic Abuse Hotline 724.223.9190 or 1-800-791-4000

Washington County Law Library (lower level of Courthouse; open to the public): 724-228-6747

Web Resources:

General legal information: www.paLawHelp.org

Attorney-client relationships: www.padisciplinaryboard.org

Information about Washington County court: www.washingtoncourts.us

For more information contact:

Washington Co. Bar Association 724-225-6710
 Southwestern PA Legal Services 724-225-6170