## 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

ligibility for the program.				
ype 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				
lame of other Party				

Name of other Party\_\_\_\_

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



Court/Magistrate

Attorney

Other\_

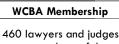
Brochure

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.



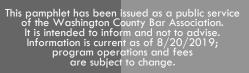
are members of the Washington County Bar Association

#### **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





# Modest Means Program



# Program Goals

Sometimes, you can't afford <u>not</u> 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 reducedfee 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
Ea addl	+\$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 F	Rep Program; Call			
SWPA Legal Services at 724-225-6170 to determine				
eligibility for Ltd Rep Custody Progra	am			
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				
Consumer Law				

#### 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