

**DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (DLSA) ENGAGES IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:**

- Provides free and competent legal aid in the nature of counseling and legal advice as well as free legal services in the conduct of cases before Courts and Tribunals.
- Organizes regular Lok Adalats every month for pending cases of all types as well as special Lok Adalats for special categories of cases. Lok Adalats limit costs, delays and ensure speedy justice overcoming legal technicalities.
- Undertake responsibilities of pre-litigation dispute resolution through conciliation mechanism by establishing Permanent Lok Adalats in each district where matters relating to Public Utility Services are taken up for settlement
- Spreads Legal Awareness among the public, targeting particularly the beneficiaries of social legislations and the public at large on various issues of legal importance.
- Special endeavor is made for rendering free legal aid to under trial prisoners whose cases are pending in Courts.
- Organizes Legal Literacy Classes in colleges, jails and Legal Awareness programmes for woman and children in need of care and protection.

**THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (DLSA) PROVIDES FREE LEGAL AID AND SERVICES TO:**

- A member of schedule caste or Schedule Tribe.
- A victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar.
- A woman or a child.
- A person with disability such as visual impairment, locomotors disability, hearing impairment, mental health problems etc.
- A victim of mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster.
- An industrial workman.
- A person in custody including a juvenile, i.e. a person up to the age of 18 years in protective home or a mentally ill person in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home.
- A person with an annual income of less than ₹ 75,000/-

**AREAS OF LEGAL AID/MATTERS WHERE LEGAL SERVICES MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE**

1. All cases of a civil nature such as property dispute, matrimonial dispute and matters dealing with the custody of a child, labour and service matters, compensation in motor accident cases, Consumer disputes under the Consumer Protection Act etc.
2. All cases involving criminal offence.
3. All cases of violation of fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India.
4. Cases of great public importance.

**AREAS WHERE LEGAL SERVICE IS NOT AVAILABLE**

1. Cases of defamation.
2. Cases of contempt of court or perjury.
3. Proceedings relating to any election.
4. Proceedings with regard to economic offences.
5. Offence covered by social legislation such as complaint against untouchability etc. The Chairman of concerned Authority may, however, grant legal aid even in such proceedings in an appropriate case.

**PROCEDURE FOR LEGAL AID**

1. An application in writing stating in brief the grievance or the cause for which legal aid is sought is to be filed before Office of the Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Golaghat.
2. In case an applicant is illiterate, the Secretary or an officer of the concerned Authority shall record his verbal submission and obtain his thumb impression/signature on the prescribed form available in the Office of the Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Golaghat.
3. The applicant may be required, if necessary to execute an affidavit in the prescribed format as to his eligibility criteria for seeking legal aid.
4. The Member secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Golaghat may examine the applicant to verify the facts stated in the affidavit and for information necessary for deciding the eligibility criteria.
5. The application shall be processed as early as possible and preferably within one week.

**NATURE OF LEGAL AID WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED TO AN APPLICANT**

1. All relevant charges incurred/ payable in connection with any legal proceeding.
2. All charges for drafting, preparing, filing of any legal proceeding and expenditure incurred for representations by a legal practitioner in such proceeding.
3. Cost of obtaining any certified copy/copies of judgment, order and further miscellaneous expenses relating to that proceeding.
4. Cost of preparation of paper book (paper printing transaction), legal proceeding and expenses incidental thereto.

**CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH LEGAL AID MAY BE WITHDRAWN**

1. Where the aided person is found to possess sufficient means.
2. Where the aided person obtains legal aid by misrepresentation or fraud.
3. When the aided person does not co-operate with the committee or with Authority.
4. Where the aided person engages a legal practitioner other than a practitioner assigned by the ASLSA/DLSA/ Sub-divisional Committee.
5. Where the aided person dies during the proceeding except in civil proceedings where the right to sue survives.
6. Cases where the application for legal aid or matter in question is found to be an abuse of the process of law or of legal services.