



**LEGAL
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Seniors Get Free Legal Help from Manhattan Legal Aid for Seniors Project

New Project Will Help Seniors Age in Place and Stay Independent

NEW YORK, July 8, 2005--MFY Legal Services, Inc. and Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation have joined forces to establish the **Manhattan Legal Aid for Seniors Project (MLASP)**, which provides free legal assistance to Manhattan residents aged 60 and older.

“Growing numbers of seniors live one crisis away from losing their homes as they try to make their fixed retirement or disability incomes cover the rising costs of housing, utilities, food, medicine, and transportation. The death of a partner, rent increase, medical emergency, or financial abuse scheme can trigger a series of mishaps that places a senior’s housing, income and independence in jeopardy,” said Lynn M. Kelly, Executive Director of MFY.

All seniors are eligible for services, with priority given to those facing eviction or the loss or reduction of public benefits, and who cannot afford an attorney. Priority will also be given to seniors who are being abused physically or emotionally and who are victims of financial exploitation. MFY Legal Services and the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation will provide a full range of services, including advice, counsel, and full representation at court and administrative hearings. MLASP will help seniors avoid serious problems by conducting workshops on issues of concern at senior centers, community organizations, Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, nursing homes, and adult homes.

Organizations interested in senior workshops or legal training for social service workers should contact Ken Lau, MFY Supervising Attorney, at 212-417-3709. Seniors living on or below 110th Street should call MFY’s senior intake line on Wednesdays between 2 pm-4:30 pm; seniors living above 110th Street should call NMIC at 212-822-8300.

MFY Legal Services, Inc., founded in 1963, provides free legal services to low-income New Yorkers on housing, public benefits, health care, civil and disability rights, elder law, and employment matters, and initiates class action lawsuits to challenge systemic inequities. **Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation**, a multi-service community organization, works to minimize evictions and improve housing, increase job opportunities, and assist families, with legal services focusing on housing, public benefits, elder law, environmental justice, domestic violence and childhood disability benefits. MLASP is supported by the New York City Department for the Aging.

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