

# ALABAMA RESIDENTS NEED STRONG FUNDING FOR CIVIL LEGAL AID



Nearly half of low income houses in Alabama experience one or more legal problems in a year. The most common categories for legal problems are consumer issues, housing issues, health issues, and family-law issues.



Alabama has one Legal Services Corporation funded program and five Volunteer Lawyer Programs. Together these programs provide **FREE LEGAL SERVICES** in civil cases in all 67 counties in Alabama.

**84%**  
of the need is unmet

Last year the Legal Services program and four Volunteer Lawyers Programs in Alabama closed over **16,000 CASES**, but approximately 84% of civil legal needs of low-income households in Alabama are still unmet.

**OVER 70%**  
LEGAL AID DOLLARS FROM FEDERAL FUNDING

Over 70 percent of Alabama's total legal aid dollars come from federal funding for Legal Services Corporation, the **HIGHEST PERCENTAGE IN THE COUNTRY.**



A family of four qualifies for free legal aid if their yearly income is \$30,312 or less.



**25%** of Alabama's population is eligible for free legal assistance

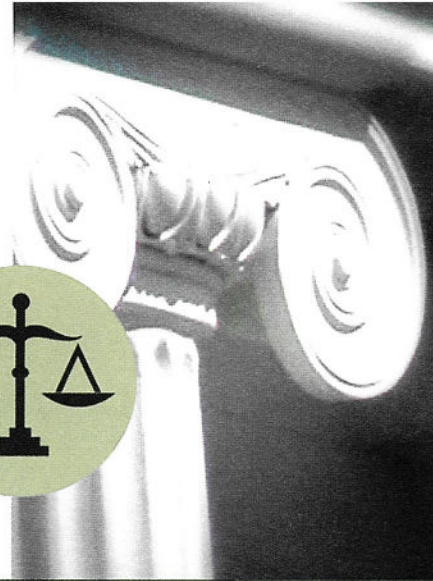
**\$9.30**



Alabama spends \$9.30 per

# ALABAMAATJ.org

A website that helps you understand Alabama's legal system.



## WHO WE ARE:

The Alabama Access to Justice website helps people understand the legal system in Alabama. There are documents and court forms for specific civil legal problems, and there is general information about going to court. You will also find information about the legal aid organizations in Alabama. This website does not provide legal advice, and it is not a substitute for having a lawyer. If you need a lawyer, there is information to help you find one in your area. The website is sponsored by the Alabama Access to Justice Commission, which was created by order of the Supreme Court of Alabama to serve as a coordinating entity for the legally underserved and legal community.



ALABAMA  
**ACCESS TO JUSTICE**  
COMMISSION

**FREE** and accurate legal information  
**HELP** and referrals for Alabama residents

## SELF-HELP INFORMATION RESOURCES



### HOUSING

- Leases
- Eviction
- Landlord/tenant matters
- Foreclosure



### FAMILY

- Divorce
- Custody
- Visitation time
- Child support
- Paternity
- Guardianship
- Name change



### CONSUMER

- Debts and debt collection
- Garnishment
- Small claims
- Bankruptcy

## ORGANIZATIONS AND COURTS

### FIND A LAWYER

Find a lawyer in your area to help you with legal matters.

### SELF-HELP CLINICS

Find a clinic near you to get additional help representing yourself in court.

### LEGAL AID ORGANIZATIONS

Find organizations that give legal help to people who cannot afford it.

### COURT INFORMATION

Information about the court system to help you get ready to go to court.

### MEDIATION

Information about how to resolve differences without going to court.



# FIND THE ANSWERS AT **ALABAMAATJ.org**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS ALABAMAATJ.ORG?

This website was created to provide legal information and resources to Alabamians. The website contains self-help handouts on specific legal issues, do-it-yourself court forms, and basic information about the legal system. You can also find lawyers and legal advice clinics in your area.

### CAN I GET LEGAL ADVICE FROM THE WEBSITE?

No. This website gives legal information, not legal advice. Only lawyers can give you legal advice. This website has basic information about specific legal matters. If it does not cover your legal matter or you need more information, you should talk with a lawyer. The website will not refer you to a specific lawyer, but it will give you information about how to find one in your area.

### CAN THE OTHER SIDE GET HELP FROM THE WEBSITE?

Yes. The information on the website is available to everyone. It is not intended to give one side an advantage over another.

### WHAT TYPES OF LEGAL ISSUES ARE COVERED ON THE WEBSITE?

The website gives information about family law, housing issues, and consumer law. There is also general information about going to court and understanding the legal system. Additional documents and information on existing and new topics will be added to the website regularly.

### DO I HAVE TO REGISTER FOR THE WEBSITE OR GIVE ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION TO ACCESS IT?

No. The information on the website is available to everyone. Go to [www.alabamaatj.org/i-need-help/](http://www.alabamaatj.org/i-need-help/) and click on the buttons to see the types of information available on the website.

### WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE A COMPUTER OR ACCESS TO THE INTERNET?

You can access the website on a computer at a library. If the closest library does not provide computers with internet access, the librarian may be able to help you find a local organization that provides computers for community use.

### DOES THE WEBSITE HAVE CONTENT IN LANGUAGES BESIDES ENGLISH?

Yes. The website can be accessed in Spanish by going to the website and clicking on Español at the bottom of the page. Much of the self-help information is available in Spanish, but court forms are only available in English.

### HOW DO I KNOW THE INFORMATION ON THIS WEBSITE IS CORRECT?

This information has been reviewed by lawyers and legal service providers. Please e-mail [info@alfinc.org](mailto:info@alfinc.org) if you find a problem or have a suggestion to improve the website.

### WHAT IS THE ALABAMA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION?

The Alabama Access to Justice Commission was created by the Supreme Court of Alabama in 2007. The Commission is responsible for coordinating the legal community and legal service providers to promote affordable and effective access to legal services for low-income Alabamians. The Commission partners with Alabama State Bar entities and community organizations throughout Alabama to further its mission.

### FOR MORE INFO:

Visit [ALABAMAATJ.org](http://ALABAMAATJ.org)



### HAVE A LEGAL QUESTION?

Get the answer from volunteer lawyers  
[ALABAMALEGALANSWERS.org](http://ALABAMALEGALANSWERS.org).

## OUR MISSION:

“TO COORDINATE, EXPAND AND PROMOTE EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMICAL CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE OF ALABAMA.”