

Free legal aid in India: who can get it and how to ask

When to use this

- You cannot afford a lawyer
- A family member in custody needs a lawyer
- You want to know if you or someone you know qualifies

Steps

1. Check who is eligible

The Act lists groups such as women, children, members of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, persons with disabilities, persons in custody and those below an income limit set by the state. Check the current list.

2. Contact the legal services authority

Go to the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) at the district court, or the State Legal Services Authority, or use the NALSA website.

3. Apply with basic papers

Take an ID, and income proof or a category certificate if the ground needs one. Tell them about your case briefly.

4. Use the helpline

NALSA runs a legal aid helpline, 15100.

Key facts

- Eligibility and income limits vary by state
- The aid is given by the legal services authorities, not by Shikayat
- NALSA helpline: 15100

**Helplines: Cyber fraud 1930 · Consumer helpline 1915 · Women 181 · Emergency 112
· Free legal aid 15100**