**Benefits & Services:**

* **Alphabetical Order**
* **Categories:**

**Children/Juveniles**

* + **Disability**
  + **Education**
  + **Elder**
  + **Employment**
  + **Emergency / Public Safety**
  + **Families**
  + **Food**
  + **Government**
  + **Health**
  + **Housing**
  + **Housing (Homeless)**
  + **LGBTQIA**
  + **Mediation**
  + **Mental Health**
  + **Offender / Inmate Resources**
  + **Survivor / Victim Resources**
  + **Public Safety**
  + **Unemployment**
  + **Veterans**

**AIDS Action Committee**

**- Health**

(617) 450-1317

“Legal Representation and Advice on this topic is provided to people living with HIV and AIDS.”

“We give legal information and help to people living with HIV and AIDS in a range of civil (non criminal) matters, including housing, basic estate planning, discrimination, employment, family law, benefits programs, insurance and consumer debt.”

**Children and Families**

* **Families**

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/families-children>

**Center for Law and Education – Boston**

* **Education**

617 451-0855

Call Monday-Friday, 9:00am-6:00pm

“The Center for Law and Education helps low-income students, parents, advocates and legal services attorneys to fulfill every student's right to high-quality education. Through its Racial Justice Fellowship, CLE seeks to remove barriers to learning that discriminate against students (e.g., on the basis of race, ethnicity, language status, disability, or gender) – in particular, students enrolled in the public schools in Brockton, Fall River, and New Bedford.”

**Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts**

* **Education**

781-581-1977

[infor@clcm.org](mailto:infor@clcm.org)

“The helpline at CLCM is open Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm.   We answer questions and give information about children and the law to all callers, regardless of income or where you live. However, we can only represent you if you meet income eligibility standards and live in northeast Massachusetts, primarily Essex county.”

“The [Children's Law Center(link is external)](http://www.clcm.org/) represents children and youth in court and administrative proceedings involving school, child welfare and juvenile justice. The Law Center also gives legal information and referals on legal issues that affect children through its telephone helpline, provides trainings and is involved in systems reform efforts.”

**Disability Law Center – Boston**

* **Disability**
* **Education**

(800) 872-9992

Email: [mail@dlc-ma.org](mailto:mail@dlc-ma.org)

Intake is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 am – 5 pm

“The [Disability Law Center(link is external)](http://www.dlc-ma.org/) provides legal advocacy on disability issues that promote the fundamental rights of all people with disabilities to participate fully and equally in the social and economic life of Massachusetts. DLC is the Protection and Advocacy agency for Massachusetts.”

**Early Education and Care Financial Assistance for Families**

* **Education (Child Care, Preschool)**

<https://www.mass.gov/early-education-and-care-financial-assistance-for-families>

**Environment**

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/environment>

**Energy**

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/energy>

**Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC)**

* **Elder**
* **Emergency**

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/basic-needs/financial/emergency-aid-to-the-elderly-disabled-and-children.html>

**GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders**

* **Education (?)**
* **LGBTQIA+**

800-455-4523

<http://www.GLADAnswers.org>

[gladlaw@glad.org](mailto:gladlaw@glad.org)

“Intake:  by email or live chat at [www.GLADAnswers.org(link is external)](http://www.gladanswers.org/) or by phone Monday-Friday 1:30-4:30pm 800-455-GLAD (4523).

GLAD Answers provides legal information and civil and criminal referrals to private attorneys; clients negotiates fee with attorney.  
Information and resources provided for LGBT and HIV legal issues including:  family law; federal benefits after DOMA; anti-discrimination law in employment, public accommodations and housing; violence, hate crimes and harassment; HIV testing and privacy issues; transgender issues; youth issues, including bullying and discrimination; legal planning documents.”

“Through strategic litigation, public policy advocacy, and education, GLAD works in New England and nationally to create a just society free of discrimination based on gender identity and expression, HIV status, and sexual orientation.”

**Government of Massachusetts**

* **Government**

<https://www.mass.gov/>

**Greater Boston Legal Services – Boston**

617-371-1234

“[Greater Boston Legal Services(link is external)](https://www.gbls.org/) gives free civil (non criminal) legal help to low-income and elderly people in the Greater Boston area.”

“In most situations, the Eastern Region Legal Intake (ERLI) project at the Volunteer Lawyers Project handles intake for GBLS. Call (617) 371-1234 Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., and you will be connected with ERLI for screening.”

**Harvard Legal Aid Bureau**

(617) 495-4408

“Call between 9 am and 5 pm.  For Department of Unemployment (DUA) cases, we can only handle cases from the Boston office.”

“HLAB is a student-run non-profit law firm staffed by Harvard Law School students under the supervision of attorneys. We give free civil (non criminal) legal help to low-income people in the Greater Boston area. We specialize in four areas: housing, family, government benefits, and wage and hour law.”

**Harvard Mediation Program**

* **Mediation**

617-495-1854

Call between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

“Provides free mediation services to people who are involved in disputes, including disagreements between neighbors, roommates, co-workers, or between landlord/tenant, employer/employee, consumer/business. Mediators do not decide who is right or wrong.  Instead, they help both sides to reach an agreement with each other.”

**Head Start**

<http://www.mass.gov/edu/birth-grade-12/early-education-and-care/provider-and-program-administration/head-start.html>

**Health and Social Services**

* **Health**

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/health-social-services>

**Housing & Property**

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/housing-property>

**Lawyers Clearinghouse**

* **Housing (Homelessness)**

617-778-1980

“The Lawyers Clearinghouse gives free legal help to nonprofit organizations and to individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.”

“We run free legal clinics at four shelters in Boston. To come to the clinic, you must be homeless or using shelter services.

**Clinic schedule:** [Click here(link is external)](http://www.lawyersclearinghouse.org/events/) to see the dates and times of the next clinics.

**Please sign up in advance by contacting the person listed for each shelter.** But, you can still go to the clinic, even if you can't sign up in advance.

* [Cardinal Medeiros Center(link is external)](https://www.baycove.org/bcexternal/index.cfm):  Contact - Jack, 617-619-6962
* [Pine Street Inn(link is external)](http://www.pinestreetinn.org/):  Men's contact - Sharron, 617-892-9207    Women's contact - Hawah, 617-892-9303
* [St. Francis House(link is external)](https://stfrancishouse.org/): Contact - Doug, 617-654-1206
* [The Bridge(link is external)](http://www.bridgeotw.org/) (limited to ages 18 – 24): Contact – Alex, 617 423-9575 x234”

**Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Right and Economic Justice**

617-482-1145

<http://lawyerscom.org/contact-us/>

Please call Monday-Friday, 9:00 am and 5:00 pm or apply online at any time.

“The Lawyers’ Committee gives volunteer legal representation to victims of discrimination based on race or national origin. We handle major law reform cases as well as legal actions for individuals. We are also involved  in public policy advocacy, community legal education, community economic development, and other legal services that further the cause of civil rights.”

**Legal & Justice**

* **Legal Services**

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/legal-justice>

**Legal Services Center**

(617) 522-3003

Call between 9:00a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Mondays through Friday.

“We are a community-based clinical law program of Harvard Law School.  We give legal help to low- and moderate-income residents in Greater Boston through five clinical programs in the areas of Administrative/Disability Law, Family Law, Predatory Lending/Consumer Protection, Post-Foreclosure Eviction Defense, and Veterans.”

**Mass. Bar Association Dial-A-Lawyer**

(617) 338-0610 or toll-free (877) 686-0711

“On the **first Wednesday of each month**, volunteer attorneys give free, basic legal information by phone from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The lines can be very busy but keep trying. Normal telephone charges apply.”

“The Massachusetts Bar Association sponsors a monthly Dial-A-Lawyer program that encourages members of the public to call with their legal problems and questions.  Calls are answered by volunteer attorneys.”

**Massachusetts Advocates for Children**

* **Education**

617 – 357 – 8431 Ext. 3224. For Spanish Ext 3237

<http://massadvocates.org/helpline>

“Intake is done through our helpline. Please leave a message or complete the online intake form, and an advocate or attorney from Massachusetts Advocates for Children will call you back.”

“Massachusetts Advocates for Children provides education advocacy for children ages 3-22, focusing on children with special needs. Through our helpline, we give information and advice on special education and school discipline issues to Massachusetts residents regardless of income. We may be able to give additional help to to low-income children including those with autism, children ages 14 - 22 in Boston, children affected by trauma or those facing school exclusion.”

**Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee**

* **Education**
* **Health**
* **Mental Health**

617-338-2345 and press “4”

[**http://ww.mhlac.org/intake.htm**](http://ww.mhlac.org/intake.htm)

[**intake@mhlac.org**](mailto:intake@mhlac.org)

**“**For legal help please call 617-338-2345 and press "4". Calls will be returned in approximatley 2 business days. In general, the issue must involve a mental health legal matter, i.e., one in which a primary factor in the case is the mental health of the client. Illness can be undiagnosed.”

“MHLAC is an independent, state-funded agency that gives advice and direct representation to persons with mental health needs on a wide range of legal issues.”

**Mass Legal Answers Online**

<http://www.masslao.org>

“Mass Legal Answers Online is a website where low income Massachusetts residents can post their civil (non criminal) legal question. Volunteer attorneys will answer the question through the same website.”

“Go to [www.masslao.org/(link is external)](http://www.masslao.org/) and create an account by answering some eligibility questions.  You can ask up to 3 legal questions per calendar year.  You ask your question on the website, and a volunteer attorney will answer your question through the same website.  The volunteer attorney will not be able to go to court with you, make phone calls or prepare paperwork for you.

For more information, see these [Frequently Asked Questions about Mass Legal Answers Online(link is external)](https://mass.freelegalanswers.org/ClientFAQ).”

**Massachusetts Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) (Fuel Assistance)**

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap>

**Massachusetts Medicaid (MassHealth)** <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/masshealth/>

**MassHealth under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** <https://www.insurekidsnow.gov/coverage/ma/index.html>

**Massachusetts School Breakfast and Lunch Program** <http://www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/nprograms/>

**Massachusetts Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

<https://www.mass.gov/women-infants-children-wic-nutrition-program>

**Massachusetts Summer Food Service Program** <http://www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/nprograms/sfsp/>

**Public Safety**

* **Emergencies**
* **Offender / Inmate Resources**
* **Survivor / Victims Resources**
* **Public Safety**

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/public-safety>

**SNAP Benefits (Food Stamps)**

* **Food**

<https://www.mass.gov/snap-benefits-food-stamps>

**Taxes**

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/taxes>

**Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)**

* **Families**

<https://www.mass.gov/transitional-aid-to-families-with-dependent-children-tafdc>

**Transportation**

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/transportation>

**Unclaimed Property**

Rightful owner of abandoned property

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/unclaimed-property>

**Unemployment Insurance**:

* **Unemployment Benefits**

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-unemployment-assistance>

<http://www.masslegalhelp.org/employment-unemployment/unemployment-insurance>

“If you lose your job, you may be able to get Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. These benefits help you keep up with paying your bills while you look for a new job. Unemployment benefits can also provide health insurance and job training, while you look for a new job. The Massachusetts [Department of Unemployment Assistance](http://www.mass.gov/dua) (DUA) runs the program.

You may be able to collect unemployment benefits if you were laid off from your job.  In some situations, you might also be able to collect benefits even if you were fired or if you quit (this would depend, on the circumstances). You might be able to get unemployment benefits even if you only worked part-time.  You will find more information about these issues in the following sections.

Most workers in Massachusetts can get unemployment benefits, but some cannot. Workers who cannot get Unemployment Insurance include:

* employees of churches and some religious organizations;
* independent consultants or independent contractors (people who not work under the direction and control of an employer
* some work-study students and student nurses;
* real estate agents or brokers who work only for commissions;
* insurance agents who work only for commissions;
* elected officials and policy advisors.”

**Veteran Legal Services**

**Veterans**

857-317-4474

[info@veteranslegalservices.org](mailto:info@veteranslegalservices.org)

“Veterans Legal Services helps homeless and low income veterans through comprehensive legal services.  Intakes are performed through our on-site legal clinics.”

**“Services are available through our legal clinics for low-income veterans only.**  Call our office 857-317-4474 Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm, for screening and to check clinic dates and times.​

* **Bedford Veterans Affairs Medical Center**- 200 Springs Road, Building 80, Bedford, MA Every 6 weeks.
* **Chelsea Soldiers’ Home** - 91 Crest Avenue, Chelsea, MA Alternating Mondays, 10:30am
* **New England Center & Home for Veterans -**17 Court Street (Government Center), Boston, MA Most Wednesdays, 6:00pm
* **Norfolk County Veterans Treatment Court -**631 High Street, Dedham, MA For veterans participating in the Veterans Treatment Court Usually first Tuesday of each month.

**Weather Cancellation Policy** – Clinics are not held if Boston Public Schools are closed due to weather.”

<http://www.mass.gov/veterans/benefits-and-services/>

**Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association**

(617) 603-1700; (800) 342-5297

Call (617) 603-1700 Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

“The Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association (VLP) gives free civil (non criminal) legal help to low-income residents of Greater Boston, primarily through the volunteer services of private attorneys.”

**Wage Theft Legal Clinic**

* **Employment**

“Lawyers, law students, interpreters, and worker center advocates will be at the Wage Theft Legal Clinic to help workers learn about your rights, draft a demand letter, or prepare a small claims court complaint. Walk-ins are welcome. If you need an interpreter, please call (617) 963-2327.

If you have these papers related to your wages, please bring them with you: pay stubs, time sheets, letters and emails from your employer.

**Where:** Suffolk Law School, 120 Tremont Street, Boston 02108 (near Park Street Station)

**When:** September 25, October 30, November 27, 2017 and December 18, 2017,  from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.”

“Wage theft and worker exploitation is rising in Massachusetts. To help workers, the Attorney General’s Office has started a Wage Theft Clinic together with community partners.”