

# COMMUNITY LEGAL RESOURCES

We've compiled this guide of community legal resources for Immigration, LGBTQ+, and general community legal services for help in and around Allegheny County and Pennsylvania. We believe that knowledge is power. Use this quick guide to help you navigate processes that can be confusing, complicated, and stressful.

DISCLAIMER: This resource is a general guide and not a comprehensive guide of resources. Be sure to contact an attorney if you have questions or specific issues that need to be addressed.



## LGBTQ+ Legal Resources

There are a number of tools for members of the LGBTQ+ community, those around civil rights as well as family and estate planning. See some organizations and attorneys below providing various legal services.

### Wills & Estates

Having the right estate documents can guide you and your spouse or partner's wishes both in life and after death. While marriage is currently legally protected, increased risk for potential challenges to marriage recognition highlights the need to clearly define who receives property and assets through a will, who has decision-making authority for medical decisions, and to outline other directives in order to ensure the wishes of each person are carried out, regardless of defaults by law.

Trellis Legal offers flat-rate wills, powers of attorney, and advanced healthcare directives.

- LGBTQ persons can fill out this interest form for a discount through Dec. 31, 2025: [Click here for the interest form.](#)

### Family Law

Family lawyers can help with various protections of married couples and their children through pre-nuptial agreements and through adoption, the best way to secure and prove the legal relationship between a child and non-biological/non-birth parent.

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### Low-Income Legal Support

Hugh Lane Foundation provides need-based civil legal aid services for LGBTQ+ community members in Southwestern PA, including name-change services, identity document support, housing support, and more. Fill out their intake form at [this link](#).



## Immigration Legal Resources

Areas of the law that might affect immigrants include removal proceedings, visa and citizenship help, asylum and other status claims, as well as others around family, youth, and labor. Below are a few resources to connect you with someone who can help for free or low cost.

Jewish Family and Community Services  
For those in need of advice relating to legal immigration matters, JFCS can provide legal assistance for free or low cost.

University of Pittsburgh Law School Immigration Law Clinic  
Specializing in serving immigrants in removal proceedings and asylum cases, as well as survivors of domestic violence.

Immigrant Services and Connections Allegheny County

If you aren't sure what kind of service is needed or who to call, ISAC works with many organizations and provides navigation support services beyond legal needs. ISAC holds office hours in several languages.

## General Legal Support

### Know Your Rights & Risks

It's important to understand your rights, and how to assert them. The American Civil Liberties Union provides civil rights guides for many communities and scenarios including in voting, rights to protest, employment, and more, [organized by issue here](#). The National Lawyers Guild publishes "Know Your Risks" documents as well because sometimes knowing your rights is not enough when they are "knowingly violated by government agents." [Learn more.](#)

### Confidentiality & Scope of Representation

Your communications with your lawyer are confidential and may be protected by attorney-client privilege, meaning they cannot be required to disclose what you say. However be sure you understand the scope of their representation—or if you are represented at all—and don't be afraid to ask questions when you don't understand the full scope of their work with you.

### Other Legal Support

#### Neighborhood Legal Services

NLS provides various levels of service on different legal issues, from tenant representation to . Some individuals may receive representation, others legal advice, and others referrals to available resources.