



Snohomish County Legal Services Lawyers in the Library Clinic Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Snohomish County Legal Services (SCLS) in partnership with the Everett Public Library, Evergreen Branch, provides a free general civil legal aid clinic, to low-income, qualifying residents of Snohomish County on a monthly basis. During the clinic you will have a 1-on-1, 30-minute appointment with an SCLS staff or volunteer attorney to discuss your civil legal issue. Below are some frequently asked questions and answers that may help you determine if this clinic would be the best resource to address your civil legal issue.

What civil legal issues can I expect to get advice on?

SCLS primary focus areas are Housing, Family Law, Wills for Seniors, and Personal Debt/Chapter 7

Bankruptcy. For other legal issues outside of this scope, the SCLS attorney's knowledge about your specific issue may be limited. They will do their best to provide you with legal advice and counsel, within their abilities, and/or provide you with options or other resources.

Do I have to pre-register for the clinic?

It is highly recommended that you pre-register for the clinic as appointments are available on a limited basis, and offered on a first come, first served basis. To register, epls.org/SignMeUp or call 425-257-8250.

Walk-in - I didn't register for the clinic on-line – can I still come?

Walk-ins will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. You will be asked to complete an intake form to allow us to screen for eligibility. There may be a wait for an available attorney.

Walk-in - What happens if I didn't get time with an attorney today?

We can potentially provide you with resources, other clinic options, and/or SCLS contact information to schedule a brief consultation.

I'm Registered for the Clinic – Now What?

You've registered for the clinic and received an email confirmation of your appointment slot for the day of the clinic.

What should I expect from my meeting today?

This is a brief advice and consultation on your civil legal issue with a lawyer. We may be able to provide you with additional resources beyond our service parameters.



Do I have to pay for my session today?

No. SCLS offers **free** civil legal services to eligible low-income, Snohomish County residents, regardless of citizenship status or documentation.

- Our services are free
- You must be low income (at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level or less than 80% of the Area Median Income);
- Resident of Snohomish County;
- Services are not guaranteed (there may be a conflict or capacity issue)

What does sign-in and paperwork mean?

In order for you to potentially meet with an SCLS lawyer you must complete the SCLS intake form to determine whether you qualify for SCLS services. As you arrive at the library for the free legal clinic, you will sign in on the registration sheet with your name, phone number and email address so the administrative team know you have arrived for your scheduled appointment. If you are a walk-in, you will add your information to the sign-in sheet and an attorney will be assigned to you once they become available, walk-ins are processed on a first come, first served basis based on attorney availability.

Intake Form – if you didn't complete an intake form online prior to arrival, an SCLS staff will provide you this brief document to complete and provide to the attorney. This is considered an application for brief advice and counsel (for services).

Limited Representation Agreement – you must review this in order for the SCLS attorney to discuss your legal issue with you and provide advice and counsel. The attorney will review with you at the beginning of your session, at which time, you will sign and return to the attorney.

What happens after I complete the SCLS intake (application) form?

The SCLS staff member will review your application and determine if you qualify for its free civil legal services.

What happens if I don't qualify?

If you do not qualify for SCLS legal services, you will be informed and provided with other resources. Your name will be taken off the sign-in sheet and your paperwork will be shredded.

Is my information kept confidential?

Yes. All information you share will remain confidential.

Will I receive full representation for my legal issue beyond this clinic?

Today is a brief consultation. The legal service is a limited representation, meaning they will not be considered your lawyer after your consultation has concluded. The lawyer may be able to provide additional resources should full representation be necessary.



How do I file a lawsuit or complaint, where do I go?

SCLS does not file lawsuits. The Clinic Attorney can advise the you on the options to filing a lawsuit or complaint and provide you with resources.

The Clinic is Full – can I still register?

If the clinic is full, you will be placed on a waiting list. Should a spot open for the upcoming clinic you will be contacted. Additionally, you may be provided other options or resources.

I have an Estate Planning Issue – Can I Get Help?

During the Lawyers in the Library clinic, the attorney may provide brief advice or consultation on estate planning; however, this clinic does not prepare/draft the documentation (will, power of attorney, medical directives). SCLS does not advise or assist on trust issues.

I have a Bankruptcy or Consumer Debt Issue – Can I Get Help?

During the Lawyers in the Library clinic, the attorney may provide self-help guidance and resources for debt relief for those struggling with debt that affects the ability to pay for necessities like rent and food; guidance as to the legal options available for managing personal debt (credit card, medical bills, auto loans, eviction debt, civil court judgements) and whether filing for bankruptcy is the best choice.

I Need Reasonable Accommodation(s) – How do I get help?

- If you need accommodations for parking, wheelchair access, etc., please reach out to the Everett Public Library, Evergreen Branch at 425-257-8250. All branches have designated Handicap spaces available for valid placard holders, and facilities are wheelchair accessible.
- If you need language interpreter services, including American Sign Language, you may call the Library and tell them you are registered for the Lawyers in the Library clinic and need interpreter services for your language; or you may tell the SCLS attorney at the beginning of your appointment and they can coordinate an on-demand interpreter for over 100 languages. Note, there may be a slight delay while an interpreter is being identified. Additionally, you may bring a third-party person with you to act as an interpreter.