



MARY L. LANDRIEU
UNITED STATES SENATOR *for* LOUISIANA

Disaster Legal Services (DLS)

What is Disaster Legal Services?

FEMA's Disaster Legal Services (DLS) program provides legal assistance to low-income individuals who, prior to or because of the disaster, are unable to secure legal services adequate to meet their disaster-related needs. Under the authority of the Stafford Act, when the President declares a disaster, FEMA, through an agreement with the Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association, provides free legal help for survivors of that disaster.

Am I eligible?

There are not specific income limits to qualify for legal aid under the program. Determinations of eligibility and disaster-related needs are made in the field by the organization administering the program, which in Louisiana, is the Louisiana Municipal Justice Center. Disaster legal advice is limited to cases that will not produce a fee. Cases that may generate a fee are turned over to the local lawyer referral service.

What type of assistance is available?

The following are the types of disaster legal assistance that local lawyers typically provide:

- Help with insurance claims for doctor and hospital bills, loss of property, loss of life, etc.;
- Drawing up new wills and other legal papers lost in the disaster;
- Help with home repair contracts and contractors;
- Advice on problems with landlords; and
- Preparing powers of attorney.

Who should I contact for more information?

Call 1-800-310-7029 for additional information.

Note: physical office locations and website address is not available at this time. This document will be updated once that information is available.