

## Civil Legal Resources

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### **Rhode Island Legal Services (RILS)**

Providence: 56 Pine Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Providence RI 02903 | Phone: (401) 274-2652 or 1-800-662-5034  
Newport: 50 Washington Square, Newport 02840 | (401) 846-2264 or (800) 637-4529

RILS is the state's major law firm for low-income people with civil legal problems.

*Areas of practice:* Government benefits (denials and appeals of public assistance -FIP, GPA, food stamps, SSI/SSDI, unemployment benefits, medical assistance and RIte Care), Family law (divorce, custody, and domestic violence), Housing – landlord & tenant law, eviction and foreclosure defense

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### **Rhode Island Disability Law Center (RIDLC)**

275 Westminster Street, Suite 401  
Providence, RI 02903-3434  
Voice: (401) 831-3150 | TTY: (401) 831-5335 | FAX: (401) 274-5568 | Clients: (800) 733-5332

RIDLC provides free legal assistance to persons with disabilities and/or mental illness.

*Areas of practice:* individual representation to protect rights or to secure benefits and services; self-help information; educational programs; and administrative and legislative advocacy.

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### **Volunteer Lawyer Program (VLP), Rhode Island Bar Association**

115 Cedar Street, Providence RI 02903 | Phone: (401) 421-7758 or 1-800-339-7758

The RI Bar Association's VLP program provides free legal services to qualified low-income Rhode Islanders. Participating attorneys provide legal assistance, at no charge. Clients may be responsible for filing fees, court costs and other out-of-pocket expenses.

*Areas of Practice:* All areas of civil law

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### **US Armed Forces Legal Services Project, Rhode Island Bar Association**

115 Cedar Street, Providence RI 02903 | (401) 521-5040

The US Armed Forces Legal Services Project provides legal assistance to persons actively serving in the military and their families (immediate family only). The Project also works with family members of those who died during their service and non-active military members who receive a military pension.

*Areas of Practice:* family law, probate issues, landlord/tenant, real estate, contracts, consumer, bankruptcy, collections, employment, immigration/naturalization, and income tax.

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### **Lawyer Referral Service for the Elderly, Rhode Island Bar Association**

Phone: (401) 521-5040

Everyone aged 60 or older is eligible for a free, half-hour consultation with an attorney.

*Areas of Practice:* All areas of civil law

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### **Homeless Legal Clinic**

Various locations; organized by the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless  
Phone: (401) 721-5685 or email [connie@rihomeless.org](mailto:connie@rihomeless.org)

Homeless Legal Clinics are open to all individuals who are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness. They are hosted by various organizations, such as homeless shelters and soup kitchens and occur several times a month. To find out the month's clinic calendar, go to [rihomeless.org](http://rihomeless.org) or call.

*Areas of practice:* Housing, Social Security, Medical Assistance, veterans' issues, Family Independence Program, court procedures, bankruptcy and identification issues, food stamp benefits, unemployment appeals, general public assistance, and expungement.

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### **Mental Health Advocate Office**

57 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 | (401) 462-2003

*Areas of practice:* represents patients in court, assists with non-mental health matters, informs clients of rights, interviews persons with mental health complaints, monitors policies of facilities .

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### **Rhode Island Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**

128 Dorrance St., Ste. 220, Providence, RI 02903 | (401) 831-7171 or (401) 831-7175

Rhode Island Affiliate of the ACLU (RIACLU) is dedicated to upholding and protecting the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The RIACLU fulfills this function in three ways: legislation, litigation and education. The general rule for accepting cases at the RI ACLU is that the cases must involve public entities such as state and local government.

*Areas of practice:* First Amendment rights (freedoms of speech, press, assembly and religion), the right to due process of law, the right to equal protection of the laws, the right to privacy and open government issues

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### **Consumer Protection Division, Department of Attorney General**

150 South Main Street, Providence RI 02903 | (401) 274-4400 or [contactus@riag.ri.gov](mailto:contactus@riag.ri.gov)

The Consumer Protection Unit investigates and mediates consumer complaints concerning unfair and unlawful business practices and misleading advertising arising out of alleged violations of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

*Areas of practice:* Auto repair, sales fraud, lemon law, health club facilities fraud, home construction fraud, retail sales refunds, false or misleading advertising, telephone solicitation licensing, auto service contracts, appliance warranties

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### **Roger Williams Law Clinic**

150 Washington Street, Providence 02903 | (401) 276-4880

The Roger Williams University Law Clinic is composed of law students under supervision by staff attorneys. The clinic takes a select number of cases during the academic year.

*Areas of practice:* Immigration, mediation and criminal defense