

# Disability Law Service

Fighting injustice for disabled people

Did you know that over half the people living in poverty in the UK are either disabled or living with a disabled person? It is shocking, isn't it? And given the high costs of legal advice and the reduction in legal aid, disabled people find their ability to access justice is severely limited.

That is why Disability Law Service (DLS) is here: to provide free legal advice so that disabled people and their carers can have access to justice. We cover key areas of law that are important to our clients – as explained below.

We continue to provide a full service during this period of crisis caused by the coronavirus. We are here to help so please be in touch.

## **Community Care**

Community Care refers to the services provided by social services and the NHS to help adults, children and their carers with their care needs. This can include help at home, respite care, access to the community, travel assistance, residential care and adaptations to homes.

The law in community care is used to challenge decisions made by local authorities and NHS trusts. The common breaches of law include: removal or reductions in care packages, delays or refusals in assessments and incorrect or unfair charges for necessary services.

We have a legal aid contract for community care and can help those who are eligible, including court appearances.

## **Employment**

We can help with a range of issues – for those in work and trying to access equality of opportunity in the workplace; or for those who have left work through dismissal or resignation. We can also help with reasonable adjustments that may be needed and with claims clients may have for discrimination and harassment in the workplace.

## **Housing**

We have a legal aid contract to provide help to people with housing law needs. We can help with homelessness, repossessions, unlawful eviction, landlord disputes and harassment and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).

If you are eligible for legal aid, we can provide full representation, including at court.

## **Welfare benefits**

We provide advice by phone, email and in writing to individuals who have benefit enquiries about their entitlements, mandatory reconsiderations and appeals. This includes all benefits

such as Employment & Support Allowance, Personal Independence Payments, Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and Attendance Allowance.

Our benefits advisor offers telephone advice only due to high demand.

### **Get in Touch**

We welcome enquiries by phone, email and post or via the contact forms on our website: [www.dls.org.uk](http://www.dls.org.uk) .

We are a busy service and you may need to leave a message if you phone. We aim to respond to all enquiries within 3-5 working days but it may take a little longer during the coronavirus outbreak.

Postal enquiries can be sent to:

Disability Law Service,  
The Foundry  
17 Oval Way,  
London SE11 5RR.

The table below sets out how to get in touch by phone or email, depending on which area of the charity's work you are calling about.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Phone: 0207 791 9800</b>	<b>Email address</b>
Community Care	Please choose Option 2	<a href="mailto:advice@dls.org.uk">advice@dls.org.uk</a>
Employment	Please choose Option 3	<a href="mailto:employment@dls.org.uk">employment@dls.org.uk</a>
Housing	Please choose Option 6	<a href="mailto:housing@dls.org.uk">housing@dls.org.uk</a>
Welfare Benefits	Please choose Option 5	<a href="mailto:benefits@dls.org.uk">benefits@dls.org.uk</a>
If you have MS	Please choose Option 1	<a href="mailto:msadvice@dls.org.uk">msadvice@dls.org.uk</a>