

COMMUNITY HEALTH LAW PROJECT OFFICES

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COMMUNITY HEALTH LAW PROJECT

*Fee-for-Service
Representation*



*Protecting the Rights and Promoting
the Independence of People
with Disabilities Since 1976*

The Community Health Law Project, New Jersey's premier legal services organization for people with disabilities, has begun a Fee-for-Service representation program. Since 1976, CHLP has provided free legal and advocacy services to low-income people with disabilities. Its staff of 65 operates out of regional offices in Bloomfield, Elizabeth, Eatontown, Trenton, and Collingswood; satellite offices in Hackensack, Jersey City, Toms River, Mt. Holly, Northfield and Carneys Point; and an administration office in South Orange. CHLP's areas of representation cover the entire range of civil law, including Social Security Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income, public entitlements, landlord-tenant matters, family law, consumer law, barrier-free accessibility, Medicaid, Medicare, and housing discrimination. These services remain unchanged.

How does the Fee-for-Service program differ from CHLP's other programs?

CHLP offers free representation only to individuals whose income is no greater than 175% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), as well as to nonprofit disability advocacy organizations seeking to protect the interests of their clients. In 2015, that means for an individual, CHLP's income limit is \$20,597. For a family of two, the limit is \$27,877; for a family of three, \$35,157; and for a family of four, \$42,437. The FPL figures increase slightly every year, and CHLP income limits are adjusted accordingly.

Under the Fee-for-Service program, CHLP may represent people with disabilities with incomes of up to 325% of the FPL. That means that in 2015, CHLP may represent, for a fee, an individual with an income of up to \$38,252; a family of two with an income of \$51,772; a family of three with an income of \$65,292; and a family of four with an income of \$78,812. Their assets can be no more than \$100,000, excluding the value of their home and certain other property.

How much does CHLP charge its Fee-for-Service clients?

CHLP bills its legal services on a sliding scale, from \$125 to \$175 an hour, depending on the client's income. The representation agreement between CHLP and its clients may also cover such costs as filing fees, witness fees, and other litigation expenses, as well as a retainer fee.

What kinds of cases does CHLP take under the Fee-for-Service program?

CHLP is offering representation to people with disabilities and their families in such areas as special education, Social Security, special needs trusts, health insurers' denial of coverage or services, guardianships, expungements, name changes, wills, living wills, powers of attorney, fair housing and ADA issues, and certain other civil law matters.

Who staffs the Fee-for-Service program?

The program is staffed by senior attorneys in CHLP's offices throughout the state.

How can I find out more about this program?

Please contact the CHLP office nearest you. All offices are listed on the back.

