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In Brief...

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the Massachusetts Laborers' Legal Services Fund

In response to the questions from the membership about legal services, this issue of the newsletter will address the coverage available under the Plan.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

The Plan's legal services include advice, counseling and representation for the following legal matters, provided these matters are personal legal services and do not arise from any business venture or commercial enterprise.

A. GENERAL:

Advice and Consultation:
Each member or dependent will receive as much advice and consultation on Plan covered matters during the year as is required to meet the member's needs.

B. CONSUMER TRANSACTIONS AND DEBT:

Services will include representation in claims and lawsuits arising from members' consumer transactions for the purchase or sale of goods or services other than those undertaken for commercial or profit making purposes.

C. DOMESTIC RELATIONS:

This includes representation in divorce or annulment proceedings for the union member. The Plan's services include representation regarding alimony, child support, custody, visitation rights, and property division. Legal services are available for pre-nuptial agreements; change of name proceedings; paternity actions; adoptions; guardianship; and enforcement of child support proceedings.

The Plan will also represent members in disputes with the Department of Revenue Child Support Division and provide representation in Department of Social Service cases.



D. CRIMINAL MATTERS:

Representation is provided for all criminal matters in the district courts of the Commonwealth, and similar matters in courts of comparable jurisdiction in other states. Representation includes bail hearings, probation surrender hearings, probation probable cause hearings, clerk's hearings, juvenile matters, pre-trial conferences, motion hearings bench and jury trials.

E. VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC MATTERS:

The Plan will represent you for traffic violations, hearings and appeals involving loss of driver's license in District Courts, Registry of Motor Vehicles and/or Board of Appeals.

F. REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS:

The Plan will provide representation for the purchase or sale of your primary residence, including a condominium or a building which contains no more than three dwelling units including your own residence. Representation will include preparation and review of purchase and sales agreements, deeds, declaration of homestead and other real estate documents. There is also a one-time reimbursement for legal fees, not to exceed \$500.00 associated with a purchase or refinancing of your primary residence.

G. WILLS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS:

The Plan will prepare your will, or review and update an existing will; a power of attorney and a health care proxy will also be prepared at your request. Representation does not include the creation of separate trust instruments.

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H. PROBATE:

The Plan will provide for representation in probating an estate in cases where the member, spouse or other eligible family member has died. The Plan will provide probate representation for the estate of the mother or father of the Union member in cases where the Union member is the executor or administrator. The Plan will also now cover the estate of the mother or father of the spouse of the Union member when the spouse is the executrix or administratrix.

I. LANDLORD AND TENANT:

Representation of a member in an action brought in district or housing courts in Massachusetts, or courts of comparable jurisdiction other states, by a landlord for rent or for eviction or other proceedings involving tour primary residence. Representation of a union member landlord against a tenant is covered provided the building contains three units or less and includes the member's primary residence. Representation of members is also provided in proceedings involving violation of housing and building codes at your primary residence.

J. IMMIGRATION:

The Plan will represent a member or eligible dependent in applications for citizenship, change of status, petition for immigration of member's immediate family which is defined as spouse and children, and deportation proceedings brought against a member or eligible dependent.



K. CLAIMS AGAINST OWN INSURANCE COMPANY:

The representation provided involves the handling of claims arising out of delays or failing to pay you pursuant to your own insurance contract regarding your automobile, homeowners or residence insurance policy.

L. MONETARY CLAIMS:

Insurance Claims Assistance: Members will be defended in any matter in which representation is not provided by their insurance carrier, the claim is in excess of the insurance coverage or the member is without liability insurance coverage for the claim.

M. BANKRUPTCY: (Individual – Non-business)

The Plan will represent members in the preparation of Voluntary and Involuntary Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 petitions, or any personal bankruptcy petition, until a discharge or final result has been obtained, including representation at creditors meetings, conferences, and all Court hearings.

N. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

The Plan will advise and counsel you on securing your rights and benefit entitlements from government agencies such as Social Security Administration, Department of Social Services, and Department of Transitional Assistance and represent you in hearings before those agencies.

Statements or questions please contact us at:
Massachusetts Laborers' Legal Services Fund
14 New England Executive Park, Suite 100
Burlington, MA 01803-5201
(781) 273-3939 • Toll free at 1-800-852-3000

Declaraciones o preguntas por favor contactenos:
Massachusetts Laborers' Legal Services Fund
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