

INFORMATION

This is for information of all concerned that as per the directions of Hon'ble Executive Chairperson, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, legal aid clinics manned by trained student Para-Legal Volunteers are functioning in the following University/College:

- (1) **Sikkim University at 5th Mile, Tadong** every Wednesday & Friday from 03:00 p.m – 05:00 p.m.,
- (2) **ICFAI University at Lower Sichey** every Tuesday & Thursday from 10: 00 a.m. – 01:00 p.m. and
- (3) **Sikkim Government Law College at Burtuk** every Thursday from 02:00 p.m. to 04:00 p.m. and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m.

Who are PARA-LEGAL VOLUNTEERS (PLVs)?

Under the NALSA Scheme for Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) introduced during the year 2009, Para-Legal Volunteers act as intermediaries bridging the gap between the common people and the Legal Services Institutions to remove impediments in access to justice by making legal services accessible to people who are in the villages and in geographically inaccessible areas.

PLVs are trained on basic laws and legal system of our country and provide basic legal assistance to those who approach the legal aid clinics for legal advise.

Who are entitled to free legal services?

Section 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 prescribes eligibility for free legal aid to the following persons to file or defend a case, if that person is –

- a) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;
- b) a victim of trafficking in human being or begar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution;
- c) a woman or a child;
- d) a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person;
- e) a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood drought, earthquake, or industrial disaster; or

- f) an industrial workman; or
- g) in custody, including custody in a protective home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, or in a juvenile home within the meaning of clause (j) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1986; or in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (j) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or
- h) in receipt of annual income less than rupees one lakh as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a Court other than the Supreme Court, and less than rupees one lakh or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

Any person living in the vicinity of the Legal Aid Clinics detailed above may approach these clinics for legal aid advice and free legal advocate.

Issued in Public Interest by
Sikkim State Legal Services Authority,
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