

What is Texas RioGrande Legal Aid?

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation that provides free civil legal assistance to low-income persons in South, Central and West Texas. In addition, TRLA provides services to migrant farm workers in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana on cases that involve issues relating to their status as migrants. TRLA's mission is to promote the dignity, self-sufficiency, safety and stability of low-income clients by providing high quality civil legal assistance and related educational services.

To Qualify for TRLA Services You Must:

- Meet income and asset limitations set by the federal government, and
- Have a case that meets our priorities and acceptance guidelines.

If we do not accept your case, we may refer you to a private attorney or to another agency.

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid provides legal services in the following areas of law: **Texas RioGrande Legal Aid ofrece servicios en las siguientes áreas de derecho:**

Border Issues • **Problemas Fronterizos**
Children's Rights • **Derechos de Menores**
Civil Rights • **Derechos Civiles**
Colonias • **Colonias**
Real Estate • **Bienes Raíces**
Consumer • **Consumidor**
Criminal Justice • **Justicia Penal**

(List of services continued on back page)

Disability Rights • **Derechos de Incapacitados**
Disaster Assistance • **Ayuda en Desastres**
Displaced Workers • **Obreros Destituídos**
Domestic Violence • **Violencia Doméstica**

Family • **Derecho Familiar**
Education • **Educación**
Elder Law • **Derechos de Personas Mayores**
Employment • **Empleo**
Environmental Justice •
Justicia de Protección del Ambiente
Farm Worker Division •
División del Obrero Campesino
Health Care Access •
Acceso a Cuidado de Salud
Homeless • **Derechos de Personas sin Hogar**
Housing • **Vivienda**
Fair Housing • **Derechos de Equidad de Vivienda**
Federally Subsidized Housing • **Vivienda Pública Federal**
Housing for Individuals with Disabilities •
Vivienda Para Incapacitados
Mortgage Foreclosure • **Ventas Hipotecarias**
Predatory Lending • **Préstamos Abusivos**
Private Landlord-Tenant • **Propietario Privado e Inquilinos**
Immigration • **Inmigración**
Legal Clinics • **Clínicas Legales**
Micro-enterprise Economic Development
Desarrollo Económico de Micro-empresas
Native Americans • **Indígenas**
State & Federal Benefits • **Beneficios Estatales y Federales**
Small Farmers • **Pequeños Agricultores**
Taxes • **Impuestos**
Texas C-Bar •
Ayuda para Organizaciones No Lucrativas de Desarrollo Comunitario
Civil Litigation • **Litigación**
Torts • **Agravios Civiles**
Wills & Estates • **Testamentos, Bienes, y Herencias**



**Free Legal Services Available for
Eligible Low-Income
Natural Disaster Victims**

To Apply for Legal Services call

**1-888-988-9996 or
512-447-7707 in Austin area**

Information Needed When Applying for Services from TRLA:

- 1) Current Household Income Information
- 2) Social Security Number
- 3) Documents related to your case (to the extent possible)

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid has offices in:
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid tiene oficinas en:

Austin	Laredo
Corpus Christi	San Antonio
Del Rio	Sinton
Eagle Pass	Victoria
Edinburg	Weslaco
El Paso	Nashville, TN
Harlingen	

Legal Issues Frequently Encountered by Disaster Victims

Disaster victims may need legal advice or representation regarding a variety of legal problems. Examples of issues that disaster victims may need legal assistance with include:

- Death and probate issues;
- Family custody and guardianship issues;
- Denial of assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);
- Dissatisfaction with the amount of benefits provided by FEMA;
- Temporary housing;
- Public education issues;
- Landlords who fail to return security deposits and lease termination;
- Immigration and documentation issues;
- Bankruptcy and financial matters; and
- Public Benefits, including Food Stamps, Medicaid, Social Security, Unemployment Benefits, and TANF.

Tips for Applying for Assistance from FEMA

Disaster victims from counties or parishes, which have been declared a federal disaster area, can apply for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) immediately. FEMA can provide financial assistance to persons affected by a federally declared disaster.

- You may apply by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). The speech or hearing impaired may call (TTY) 1-800-462-7585.
- If you get a busy signal, you may want to try calling after 6:00 p.m. or on the weekends when call volumes tend to be lighter.
- Be prepared to provide the following information:
 - Street address of your damaged property

- Current mailing address and a telephone number where you can be reached if you are forced to relocate
- Social Security Number
- Household's gross income at the time of the flood (or if you reporting business damages, gross income of the business); and
- Information on the type of insurance coverage you have.

Types of Financial Assistance Available from FEMA

- Temporary housing;
- Repairs necessary to make your home safe and habitable;
- Repair or replacement of household items;
- Repair or replacement of a vehicle that was damaged to the point that it cannot be used;
- Moving and storage expenses;
- Medical or dental costs resulting from the declared disaster; and
- Funeral expenses related to a death caused by the declared disaster.

Other Matters Related to Assistance from FEMA

- Generally, FEMA takes applications for assistance for 60 days following the date a disaster is declared.
- It is a violation of Federal law to file a false claim for disaster assistance.
- FEMA advises applicants of decisions made regarding their applications in a letter. The letter will state whether financial assistance is being provided. If assistance is denied, the letter will indicate the reason for the denial. If assistance is being provided, the letter will

state for what purpose the funds must be used.

- Applicants who receive financial assistance from FEMA should keep receipts demonstrating that they spent the money as FEMA intended. FEMA can ask to see those receipts up to three years after assistance is received. If the money is not spent as FEMA intended, an applicant could be asked to return the money.
- If the letter from FEMA contains a decision with which an applicant disagrees, he or she generally has 60 days to appeal in writing. Applicants may be dissatisfied with the amount of assistance provided by FEMA or a claim may have been denied altogether. **Either way, TRLA may be able to help dissatisfied FEMA applicants submit their appeals.**

Other Programs for which Disaster Victims May be Eligible

- Disaster Unemployment Assistance
- Federal Income Tax relief
- Small Business Administration loans
- Expedited Food Stamp benefits
- FEMA Crisis Counseling

Other Helpful Phone Numbers

- American Red Cross: 1-866-GET-INFO
- WIC: 1-800-942-3678
- Food Stamps: 1-800-500-4266

To Apply for Legal Assistance from TRLA

Call toll-free 1-888-988-9996 or 1-866-988-9996. In Austin area: 512-447-7707