

# Legal Resources for the Elderly Program (LREP)

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*Legal Resources for the Elderly Program*  
*New Mexico State Bar Foundation*

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# LREP Program Overview

- ▶ LREP is a statewide program that provides free legal help to New Mexico residents age 55 and over
- ▶ LREP has no income restrictions (most clients are low-to-moderate income)
- ▶ LREP provides services in both English and Spanish

# LREP Services

- ▶ Legal telephone helpline & brief services
- ▶ Referrals to private attorneys
- ▶ Legal workshops and clinics
- ▶ Public education
- ▶ Systemic advocacy

# Common Types of Cases

- Consumer Protection
- Debt Problems
- Financial POA
- AHCD
- Grandparent Caregivers
- Employment
- Landlord/Tenant
- Medicaid/Medicare
- Long-Term Care
- Probate
- Social Security
- Transfer on Death Deeds
- Wills/Trusts
- Foreclosure

LREP does not provide legal help in criminal matters.

# Legal Helpline and Brief Services

- ▶ LREP has 4 part-time attorneys (2.8 FTEs)
- ▶ LREP has 2 full-time support staff
- ▶ LREP attorneys handle ~ 4,500 cases/year

# Legal Helpline and Brief Services

LREP staff attorneys:

- ▶ Provide legal advice over the telephone
- ▶ Review documents (deeds, demand letters, rental agreements, etc.) to better answer client questions
- ▶ Provide form letters to clients, such as “stop calling” letters to send to collection agencies
- ▶ Provide follow-up informational brochures on specific topics

# Referral Service

- ▶ Referrals to private attorneys if client requires direct representation
- ▶ LREP's referral panel has over 650 private attorneys statewide
- ▶ Referrals are pro bono, reduced or full fee
- ▶ **POA/AHCD prepared for free**
- ▶ LREP has made over 7,400 referrals since 2003

# Legal Workshops

- ▶ LREP staff attorneys conduct workshops at Senior Centers statewide (except Bernalillo County)
- ▶ LREP currently provides 22 workshops per year
- ▶ Each NM County is visited at least once every 2 years

# Community Education

- ▶ LREP writes and distributes educational documents, such as the *Senior Legal Handbook* and *Senior Supplement* pamphlets that explain legal issues in plain language
- ▶ LREP participates in community events such as the New Mexico Conference on Aging and Seniors' Day at the Roundhouse

# Systemic Advocacy

- ▶ LREP staff participate in a number of projects aimed at improving legal services to New Mexico seniors. These activities include:
  - NM Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission
  - Adult Protective Proceedings Task Force
  - Administrative Office of the Courts Pro Se Litigant's Handbook project

# LREP Advance Directive Work

- ▶ Since 2010, LREP has provided over 1,700 clients with Advance Directives
- ▶ LREP staff attorneys assist clients with POA/AHCD at LREP Legal Clinics
- ▶ POA/AHCD are always prepared free by referral attorneys
- ▶ Since 2004, LREP has provided information regarding Advance Directives to over 7,000 people through LREP workshops

# Advance Directive Translation

- ▶ In 2014, LREP translated both the statutory POA and AHCD into a dual-language format
- ▶ Dual-language allows both the Spanish-speaking principal and a potentially English-speaking doctor, banker, etc. to understand the document

# Planned 2015 Outreach

- ▶ In 2015, LREP plans to create a POA/AHCD “Practice Manual” and online CLE for referral panel attorneys
- ▶ POA and AHCD are critical documents for Seniors and, in rural areas of the state, LREP has very few attorneys who accept POA and AHCD referrals
- ▶ Feedback from our panel attorneys, indicates that many more attorneys will take these cases if they have guidance and training in this practice area

# Questions?

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