

# Providing Pro Bono Legal Services After a Disaster



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# History of Disaster Legal Assistance in Tennessee

- 18 Presidential or FEMA-declared disasters in Tennessee since 1990, all caused by extreme weather conditions
- Potential for other disasters not related to weather

# Chief Justice Encourages Attorneys to Offer Legal Assistance Following Floods

“In the days and weeks ahead, thousands of Tennesseans will encounter a variety of legal issues that can be resolved through the pro bono efforts of attorneys,” Chief Justice Janice Holder said. “It is important that our neighbors throughout Tennessee receive proper access to legal assistance following this disaster, and I encourage attorneys to step up and volunteer legal services to those in need.”

# Legal Hotline Established

## (888) 395-9297

- Allows callers to request the assistance of a lawyer
- Partnership between the Tennessee Bar Association, local bar associations and legal organizations in the state
- Open between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT, M-F
- Messages can be left at any time

# Attorney Volunteers Needed

Sign up at [tba.org/volunteer](http://tba.org/volunteer)



## Volunteer to Assist in Relief Efforts

The Tennessee Bar Association is working with the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services and other organizations to provide pro bono legal assistance to those in need following the recent flooding in Nashville and surrounding areas.

To volunteer, please fill out the form below. Thank you for your generous support.

Name:	<input type="text"/>	BPR#:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>	E-Mail:	<input type="text"/>
City:	<input type="text"/>	St:	<input type="text"/>
Phone:	<input type="text"/>	Fax:	<input type="text"/>
		Zip:	<input type="text"/>

## Volunteer opportunities

- ☐ I would be willing to assist in answering FEMA disaster legal services hotline calls and would accept individual cases that arise from those calls
- ☐ I would be willing to travel to affected areas to volunteer at a walk-in clinic

## Volunteer resources you have to donate

- ☐ I have legal reference materials to donate
- ☐ I have office supplies to donate
- ☐ I have office equipment to donate

# 42 Counties with Disaster Relief Designation as of 5/10

- Benton
- Carroll
- Cheatham
- Chester
- Clay
- Crockett
- Davidson
- Decatur
- DeKalb
- Dickson
- Dyer
- Fayette
- Gibson
- Hardeman
- Hardin
- Haywood
- Henderson
- Hickman
- Houston
- Humphreys
- Jackson
- Lauderdale
- Lawrence
- Lewis
- Macon
- Madison
- Maury
- McNairy
- Montgomery
- Obion
- Perry
- Robertson
- Rutherford
- Shelby
- Smith
- Stewart
- Sumner
- Tipton
- Trousdale
- Wayne
- Williamson
- Wilson

# City Disaster Centers in Nashville

Operating at least through the end of this week.

All centers open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Attorneys working shifts.

- Coleman Community Center, 384 Thompson Lane @Nolensville Rd.
- Bellevue Community Center, 656 Colice Jeanne Road
- Hadley Park Community Center, 1037 28th Avenue North
- East Community Center, 700 Woodland Street
- Hermitage, 3720 James Kay Lane



# Current FEMA Disaster Relief Centers

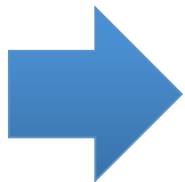
- 100 Oaks Mall, 719 Thompson Drive, Nashville
- Centerville Community Church of Christ,  
Hickman County

# Disaster Assistance Manual

- Available at [tba.org/YLD/disaster\\_manual.pdf](http://tba.org/YLD/disaster_manual.pdf)

## Resources

- [FEMA Fact Sheet](#)
- [Consumer Flood Information Fact Sheet](#) from the Tennessee Attorney General
- [Insurance Tips](#) from the Tennessee Attorney General
- [Update and Information](#) from Shelby County Emergency Operations Center
- [Tax filing information](#) from the Legal Aid Society
- [Help for Volunteers: A Disaster Assistance Manual](#) for attorneys providing volunteer assistance to victims of flooding in the Nashville area or other disasters is available now from the Tennessee Bar Association.



## TENNESSEE BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

### DISASTER ASSISTANCE MANUAL

*A guide for volunteer attorneys providing  
legal assistance to victims of disasters*

Produced by the  
Disaster Relief Committee  
April 2007  
Updated July 2009

# Overview of the Disaster Manual

- ☐ HOUSING ISSUES
- ☐ TANF BENEFITS
- ☐ MEDICAID BENEFITS
- ☐ SOCIAL SECURITY & SSI BENEFITS
- ☐ EXPEDITED FOOD STAMPS
- ☐ INSURANCE
- ☐ INSURANCE COMPANY HOTLINES
- ☐ REPLACING LOST DOCUMENTS
- ☐ INFORMATION FOR IMMIGRANTS

# Overview of the Disaster Manual Cont.

- ☐ EMPLOYMENT ISSUES
- ☐ INFORMATION FOR VETERANS
- ☐ DEATH
- ☐ INFORMATION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES
- ☐ FAMILY ISSUES
- ☐ LOCATING LOST PETS
- ☐ STATE PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES
- ☐ FEDERAL PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES

# Overview of the Disaster Manual Cont.

- ☐ COURT CLERKS
- ☐ COUNTY CLERKS
- ☐ COUNTY REGISTERS OF DEEDS
- ☐ COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
- ☐ HUMAN SERVICES OFFICES
- ☐ SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
- ☐ IMMIGRATION OFFICES
- ☐ LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES
- ☐ LEGAL AID OFFICES

# DISASTER LEGAL SERVICES INTAKE FORM

DISASTER LEGAL SERVICES INTAKE FORM	
<i>(Legal services are delivered under terms of agreement between YLD and FEMA)</i>	
DATE:	DISASTER NUMBER:
NAME OF APPLICANT:	COUNTY OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF DISASTER:
CURRENT TEL. NO.:	BEST TIME TO CALL:
CURRENT ADDRESS: <i>(Street, City, Zip)</i>	PRE-DISASTER ADDRESS (if different): <i>(Street, City, County, Zip)</i>
LEGAL PROBLEMS (use reverse if needed)	
MISCELLANEOUS	
1. Has the caller registered for FEMA services? (not required by encouraged) Yes No 2. Does the caller otherwise have access to legal services? Yes No 3. Is the request related to the disaster? Yes No 4. Does the caller live on an Indian reservation? Yes No 5. Does the request involve a fee-generating case? Yes No 6. Will this call be referred to a volunteer lawyer? Yes No 7. Area(s) of law for referral _____	
INTAKE VOLUNTEER NAME: <i>(Print)</i>	INTAKE VOLUNTEER SIGNATURE:

# Disaster Legal Services Case Closure Form

<b>DISASTER LEGAL SERVICES CASE CLOSURE FORM</b> <i>(Legal services are delivered under terms of agreement between YLD and FEMA)</i>	
<b>DATE FORM COMPLETED:</b>	<b>DISASTER NUMBER:</b>
<b>NAME OF APPLICANT:</b>	
<b>ATTORNEY WHO PROVIDED ASSISTANCE:</b>  <b>ATTORNEY PHONE:</b>	<b>WERE YOU ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE APPLICANT?</b>  <b>YES                      NO</b>
<b>DATE ASSISTANCE FROM ATTORNEY BEGAN:</b>	<b>DATE ASSISTANCE FROM ATTORNEY ENDED:</b>
<b>AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE:</b>	
<b>DOES THE ABA YLD NEED TO DO ANY FOLLOW-UP WITH THIS INDIVIDUAL?</b>	
<b>YES                      NO</b>	
<b>LEGAL ADVICE GIVEN/OTHER NOTES:</b>	
<b>PLEASE FAX THIS FORM TO THE TENNESSEE BAR ASSOCIATION  AT 615-297-8058  THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME!</b>	

# Frequently Asked Questions

- Housing Issues
- Questions Related to Insurance
- Replacing Lost Documents
- Small Business Information



# Helpful Links

- [www.tals.org](http://www.tals.org)
- [www.tennessee.gov/attorneygeneral/cpro/flood.htm](http://www.tennessee.gov/attorneygeneral/cpro/flood.htm)
- [www.disasterassistance.gov/](http://www.disasterassistance.gov/)
- [www.disasterlegalaid.org/tennessee\\_floods/](http://www.disasterlegalaid.org/tennessee_floods/)
- [www.fema.gov/pdf/assistance/process/](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/assistance/process/)
- [help\\_after\\_disaster\\_english.pdf](http://help_after_disaster_english.pdf)
- <http://nashvillefloodhelp.blogspot.com/>

# First Hand Account

A first hand account of providing free  
disaster legal assistance by Tara Aaron  
with Stites & Harbison

# Questions?

