



A Division of the New York Legal Assistance Group

LegalHealth

Professional Partnership to Promote Well Being®

Since 2001, LegalHealth has partnered with medical professionals to address the nonmedical needs of low-income people with serious health problems. LegalHealth complements health care with legal care — providing free legal services in medical facilities and training healthcare professionals to understand the legal issues their patients face. LegalHealth extends its mission nationally by providing technical assistance to bring medical and legal partners together.

NORTHPORT VA MEDICAL CENTER

Clinic Location

79 Middleville Road
Northport, NY 11768
Building 9, First Floor, Room 147

Clinic Schedule

Tuesdays
9:30 a.m.—2 p.m.

Thursdays
9:30 am—2 p.m.

Key Departments Served

All departments

Appointments

Laura Degnan, (631) 261-4400 ext. 6591
Dan Carroll, (631) 261-4400 ext. 7030

LegalHealth at the Northport VA

Every week attorneys bring the law office into the hospital, providing advice and representation to help patients with the following legal matters:

- Fix housing problems in Nassau County (Section 8, Evictions, Conditions)
- Assist with VA Aid & Attendance (A&A) and Housebound benefit applications and appeals
- Secure federal benefits (Social Security, SSI Disability, and food stamps)
- Address denials of New York State benefits (Public Assistance and Medicaid)
- Resolve employment related issues (including Unemployment Insurance denials in Nassau County · Solve private insurance disputes (including short and long term disability)
- Plan ahead (e.g. wills, power of attorney and guardianship)
- Handle applications for naturalization in Nassau County

Patient Stories

Harry

Harry, a 30-year old Marine veteran was seeing a psychiatrist at the VA for PTSD symptoms arising from combat in Operation Enduring Freedom. His psychiatrist referred him to the LegalHealth clinic after he had been denied unemployment benefits. His employer of 10 years said he had been fired for misconduct. LegalHealth represented Harry on appeal and argued that the alleged misconduct was an isolated incident of poor judgment arising from PTSD symptoms — flashbacks and loss of concentration. The appeal was successful and Harry will now receive \$350 weekly retroactive 3 months. During the intake, the LegalHealth learned that Tony had received a general discharge but should have qualified for an honorable discharge. His LegalHealth attorney submitted evidence supporting the upgrade, which Harry received and can now include on his resume as he begins his search for new employment.

John

Mark is a 65 year old veteran of the Army who served during the Vietnam War. He goes to the VA for medical care for his high blood pressure and diabetes. Mark also receives VA benefits. After his granddaughter's father passed away and mother's rights were terminated 10 years ago, Mark has been the guardian for and raised his 15 year old granddaughter. Mark was referred to the LegalHealth clinic because he wants to adopt his granddaughter and do advance planning for himself. His LegalHealth attorney is preparing the adoption paperwork which will be filed in Family Court for approval. Once the adoption is final, Mark will receive increased VA benefits for his adopted child. LegalHealth is also drafting a will that will specify his sister as the successor guardian should Mark pass away, and will complete other advance planning documents including a power of attorney.

Contact LegalHealth

For more information contact:

Randy Retkin, Director · 212-613-5080 · RRetkin@NYLAG.org

Julie Brandfield, Associate Director · 212-613-5083 · JBrandfield@NYLAG.org