

Legal Services of New Jersey
100 Metroplex Drive at Plainfield Avenue
P.O. Box 1357
Edison, New Jersey 08818-1357

Contact: Harvey Fisher
Office Phone: 732-529-8430
Cell Phone: 908-616-9941
Email: hfisher@lsnj.org

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**LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON EXPEDITING MARIJUANA
EXPUNGEMENTS AND SCHOOL ENROLLMENT PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS**

EDISON — The latest newsletter from Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) highlights the expedited process for expunging the record of marijuana convictions, as well as enrollment protections for students wanting to attend New Jersey public school.

The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” may be viewed online at www.lsnjlaw.org.

The newsletter lists the circumstances and violations under which people are eligible for clearing their records. Generally, that applies to offenses involving use or possession of less than one ounce of marijuana or up to five grams of hashish. Convictions for distribution of larger amounts require a three-year waiting period for expungement.

Advice is provided about using the New Jersey Courts Electronic Filing System for expungement of marijuana offenses and other crimes. It is noted there are various resources for help in navigating the electronic filing system, including LSNJ’s Electronic Filing for Expungement: Pro Se Guide at www.lsnjlaw.org.

Meanwhile, with the fall school year approaching, the newsletter provides what amounts to a tutorial on school residency and other enrollment requirements. Highlighted are the various reasons students cannot be denied admittance in a state in which every child between 5 and 20 years of age has a right to a free public education. That includes those who do not have legal immigration status, as well as homeless children.

In fact, all school districts must have an assigned person to help homeless students and their families. Without a court order, a school district is not allowed to provide any outside agency, including immigration authorities, with information that would expose the student's undocumented status. The article also spells out detailed appeals procedures when enrollments are denied.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of six independent nonprofit corporations and has been providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties for 55 years. Since its inception, LSNJ has provided representation in more than 2.6 million cases.

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