

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 OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON
THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS AND TENANTS IN THE STATE**

EDISON — The latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) provides a package of articles pinpointing the wide-scale job protections available for workers in the Garden State, as well as the ever-expanding needs and rights of tenants.

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

The twin articles provide a panorama of organizations New Jerseyans can turn to for help in further understanding their rights and possible problems relating to employment matters and tenancy issues.

Such help also is available through the LSNJLAW Hotline at www.lsnjlawhotline.org or calling 1-888-576-5529.

Underpinning the rights of workers is the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (NJLAD), which applies to all public and private employers and stipulates they cannot discriminate against a person because of race, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnic background, or other NJLAD-protected categories.

That protective coverage spans many life situations, some of which might not be widely known, such as, for example, special allowances for pregnant employees, bars against employers asking for entry into a worker’s social media or personal email accounts, or asking what a worker was paid at a previous job.

The publication outlines such dos and don'ts regarding ensuring pay equal to someone doing substantially the same work, whistleblowing protections, recruiting and hiring practices, wages and fringe benefits, leaves of absences, family and medical care leaves, and disability rights, among many other employee safeguards.

Meanwhile, the publication's accompanying article underscores the difficulties low-income people may face in trying escape homelessness and find and secure an affordable rental facility. Where to go for such help and guidance often can be somewhat daunting.

The newsletter article takes aim at that, noting there are all sorts of agencies and organizations available for such help, including detailing the maximum income levels and other standards needed to qualify for rentals, as well as other qualifying prerequisites that often vary from one agency to another.

In short, when it comes to where and how to apply for affordable rental housing and possible financial relief, there is no one-stop-shopping in New Jersey. Rather, there is a myriad of agencies listed in the article. They include the New Jersey Housing Resources Center, Affordable Housing New Jersey, Fair Share Housing Development, Piazza & Associates, Fair Share Housing Center, and Affordable Housing Online.

Other programs and their websites are the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, public housing authorities and municipal governments, senior citizen and veteran organizations, and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Guide to Affordable Housing, among others.

Finally, the publication offers a scope of "tips" on how best to apply for affordable rentals and the possible need to seek legal assistance if denied.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of six independent nonprofit corporations that provides free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people in all 21 counties.

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