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**LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON PREPARING
FOR THE NEXT NATURAL DISASTER**

EDISON — Twelve years after the death and devastation of Hurricane Sandy, the latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) urges residents to be prepared and dig in for potential future natural disasters.

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

Echoing the venerable adage of “better safe than sorry,” the newsletter sets out a primer on the “critical importance of disaster preparedness,” citing seven “essential steps everyone should take.”

That includes staying informed on what is transpiring by signing up for weather alerts and emergency updates from local authorities to get real-time information about impending disasters. New Jerseyans can dial 2-1-1 from their phones or visit www.nj211.org during and after a disaster for food, shelter, and other resource information.

People are advised to assemble an emergency kit with essential supplies lasting at least 72 hours. The kit would contain non-perishable foods, water, first aid supplies, medications, hygiene needs, a portable phone charger and flashlights, among other necessities.

It is recommended that photos of household belongings be taken for potential insurance claim purposes, and such documentation be emailed to yourself or some other secure means. The same precautionary steps are advised for securing copies of essential documents, such as identification papers, insurance policies, medical records, financial papers and other records not easily replaceable. Legal assistance for a host of disaster-related consequences is available from LSNJ.

Finally, the newsletter article says families should develop an emergency plan that includes communication strategies, evacuation routes and meeting locations should separation occur. The advice goes straight to the point: “Ensure everyone knows what to do and where to go in an emergency.”

Two other articles in the publication deal with recent changes to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) rules allowing some beneficiaries to get increased aid, and the rights of tenants when a landlord wants to sell the property.

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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