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USING GENERATIVE AI CHATBOTS FOR LEGAL HELP

EDISON — The current newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) outlines best practices for using generative artificial intelligence (gen AI) chatbots as a last resort when retaining a lawyer may not be feasible.

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

In addition to focusing on gen AI chatbots, the newsletter has separate articles on LGBTQ+ rights and property tax foreclosures.

The publication stresses turning to gen AI chatbots for legal help and effectively going *pro se* is not a recommended option. It is always better to seek help from a professional legal authority, including the LSNJLAWSM Hotline at www.lsnjlawhotline.org or 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529).

The article says gen AI chatbots can be helpful “if you know how to use them, are aware of their limitations, and take care to protect your personal information and any confidential information about you and your case.”

The article explains the differences between AI chatbots and Google or other internet search engines which essentially provide a list of relevant websites, while a chatbot attempts to provide an “answer” or response to the legal issue in question.

It is explained how to formulate proper questions and understand the bot may not have up-to-date information or may even provide misleading or wrong answers.

The property tax article details how people who don’t pay their taxes can have a lien placed on their property. That lien under the law can be purchased by outsiders who eventually

can sell the property for perhaps tens of thousands of dollars more than what the delinquent taxes amounted to.