

Legal Needs After a Disaster

Disaster's Hidden, Lasting Impacts



Disasters cause much more than physical destruction. Even today, legal aid groups are still helping with issues from Hurricane Katrina, and we expect to see disaster-related cases from Helene for another decade or more.

Survivors face wave after wave of multiplying legal problems that can last for years.

These problems compound, creating larger and more complex disaster recovery issues. Without legal help, families can risk losing everything a second time.

SAFETY & SURVIVAL

- Lost benefits (SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, SSI, unemployment)
- Domestic violence issues
- Child custody modifications
- FEMA appeals and case issues
- Rental assistance needs
- Consumer scams

HOUSING & REBUILDING

- Insurance claim disputes
- FEMA-provided housing evictions
- Repair contractor scams and disputes
- Landlord/tenant and mobile home issues (repair issues, mold concealment, evictions, lease termination, etc.)
- Legal counsel for community-based organizations on rebuilding plans
- Securing copies of deeds, titles, and documents

FINANCIAL RECOVERY

- Late applications for tax relief and disputes
- Foreclosures and bankruptcies
- Defending unwarranted FEMA and other funder recoupments
- Advice about debt accrual and bankruptcy
- Assisting with applications to financial resources for home repair, disaster relief, and other unmet needs, such as Renew NC
- Protecting access to benefits, such as assistance with disability appeals

From urgent legal needs to long-term recovery, Pisgah Legal Services is committed to helping WNC communities every step of the way.



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