



NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness & Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024



Every mind deserves justice, not just compassion.

Mental Well-Being – Right, Respect, Inclusion

WHY THIS SCHEME?

Persons with mental illness or intellectual disabilities often struggle to understand their rights or navigate the legal system, making them vulnerable to exploitation, denial of benefits, and injustice. This Scheme bridges that gap by providing free, accessible & inclusive legal support, ensuring that disability is never a barrier to dignity, equality, or justice.

WHO CAN GET HELP?

- Persons with mental illness
- Persons with intellectual disabilities
- Persons in Mental Health Establishments
- Prisoners with mental illness or intellectual disabilities

Dignity, Equity, Justice – Leaving No Mind Behind

WHAT HELP CAN BE PROVIDED?

- Free legal aid through trained panel lawyers, Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs), and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs)
- Support in civil, criminal, administrative or related matters
- Immediate legal assistance and advice to persons brought to the police station
- Assistance at every stage from investigation till trial
- Thorough pre-trial preparations with person and their family members or guardian
- Help in accessing government schemes, programmes, facilities and services
- Protection of right to access mental healthcare, right to protection from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment
- Home-based legal aid services for persons unable to visit legal aid clinics

WHERE CAN A PERSON WITH MENTAL ILLNESS OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SEEK HELP?

- District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs)
- Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs)
- Front Offices, Legal Aid Clinics
- Mano Nyay Legal Services Clinics
- Mental Health Establishments
- Police Stations, Courts including Special Courts
- Railway Stations, Bus Stands, Metro Stations
- Beggars' Home, Women's Protection Homes, Child Care Institutions, Shelter Homes
- Prisons
- Talukas
- Home Visits

SPECIAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

- Dedicated Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness & Persons with Intellectual Disabilities called Manonyay (LSUM) established in every district
- Trained Panel Lawyers, Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs), and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) to provide specialised legal assistance
- Disability-sensitive and person-centric legal services tailored to individual needs
- Access to experts for counselling, mental health and disability-related support
- Legal awareness & outreach programmes conducted in collaboration with psychiatrists and social workers
- Awareness and assistance regarding legal rights of prisoners with mental illness and intellectual disabilities

REMEMBER

- Legal services are **completely free**.
- Every person has the **right to justice, protection and dignity**.
- Mental illness or intellectual disability **never diminishes rights**.
- No person shall face **discrimination, stigma or exclusion**.
- Every individual deserves to be heard in a **safe, dignified and supportive environment**.
- **Reasonable accommodation and necessary support** must be provided.

DO'S

- Listen with empathy
- Respect dignity and choices
- Provide support and reasonable accommodation
- Ensure equal access to justice
- Maintain confidentiality

DONT'S

- Don't discriminate
- Don't stigmatize or label
- Don't ignore their voice
- Don't violate privacy
- Don't deny rights or legal aid

Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities, Equal Justice – For Every Mind

For Legal Aid

Visit - <https://nalsa.gov.in> OR <https://scourtapp.nic.in/lsams>



Call Legal Aid Helpline
15100 (Toll-Free 24*7)



Visit Your Nearest
SLSA/DLSA

Call National Mental Health
Helpline (Tele MANAS)
14416 (Toll-Free)

Every Mind Matters | Together for Dignity, Inclusion & Justice



National Legal Services
Authority



nalsa.india.in



nalsalegalaid



NalsaLegalAid



@NALSA



National
Legal Services Authority



Department of Empowerment of
Persons with Disabilities