

District Legal Aid Services Authority, Champawat

Article 39A of the Indian Constitution advocates for providing free legal aid to the marginalized and weaker sections of society and promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity. Articles 14 and 22(1) of the Constitution also make it mandatory for the state to guarantee equality before the law. In this context, the Legal Services Authorities Act was passed by Parliament in 1987 and came into effect on November 9, 1995. Under this Act, the National Legal Services Authority of India was established. Along with national and state-level authorities, District Legal Services Authorities were formed in each district to implement legal service programs at the district level. The District Legal Services Authority is located within the district court complex in each district and is headed by the District Judge of the respective district.

Main Functions of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA):

- Providing free legal assistance to people in need of representation in courts and legal forums.
- Organizing legal awareness programs to inform citizens about legal rights and services.
- Providing free legal aid to those eligible, such as the impoverished, marginalized groups, and those facing injustice.
- Implementing special initiatives for women, children, and vulnerable groups in need of care and protection, through legal literacy classes in colleges, prisons, and awareness programs.
- Offering legal advice and consultation to all citizens, especially targeting socially significant issues that affect large groups of people.
- Operating regular Lok Adalats (People's Courts) every month for pending cases, and special Lok Adalats for particular categories of cases.
- Lok Adalats help limit fees and delays while ensuring prompt justice by addressing legal technicalities.
- Promoting legal awareness among the public, especially about social laws that benefit beneficiaries and the broader community.
- Attempting to provide free legal assistance to under-trial prisoners whose cases are pending in courts.

Who can be provided with Free Legal Aid and Services?

1. All citizens belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
2. Persons subjected to forced labor or bonded labor, as mentioned in Article 23 of the Constitution.
3. All women and children.
4. All persons with disabilities and those mentally ill.
5. Persons affected by natural calamities such as floods, droughts, earthquakes, industrial crises, or ethnic violence.
6. All laborers working in industrial sectors.

7. All individuals confined in prisons, correctional homes, juvenile homes, mental hospitals, or rehabilitation centers.
8. Persons whose total annual income from all sources is below 3 lakhs INR.
9. Ex-servicemen.
10. Members of the transgender community.
11. Senior citizens.
12. Persons affected by HIV/AIDS.

Justice for All

Everyone has equal rights to seek justice. If you wish to present your case in court or have an ongoing case, you should not be deprived of justice due to poverty or other reasons. The District Legal Services Authority provides legal aid to assist such individuals.

The main legal assistance offered includes the provision of free lawyers and legal advice/consultation, and organizing awareness camps to inform people about the law.