TELANGANA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, HYDERABAD.

RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS

Dignity • Security • Protection • Justice

Know Your Rights | Seek Legal Assistance | Live with Dignity

1. WHO IS A SENIOR CITIZEN?

Under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, a Senior Citizen means a person who has attained the age of 60 years or above.

The law seeks to ensure the maintenance, welfare, dignity, safety and protection of life and property of parents and senior citizens.

2. Yours Important Rights.

> **Right to Maintenance:-** A senior citizen or parent who is unable to maintain himself or herself from his or her own earnings or property can seek maintenance from children or specified relatives, as provided under law.

> ***Right to Approach the Maintenance Tribunal :-*** A senior citizen or parent can make an application for maintenance before the Maintenance Tribunal constituted under the Act.

> Right to Legal Representation :- The Act provides for legal representation before the Maintenance Tribunal in accordance with its provisions. Legal Services Authorities can also facilitate appropriate legal assistance.

> Right to Protection of Life and Property :- Senior citizens have legal protection against exploitation, abuse, neglect and unlawful interference with their property.

> **Protection in Property Transfers:-** Where a senior citizen has transferred property subject to the condition that the transferee will provide basic physical amenities and physical needs, and the transferee fails to do so, the transfer may be declared void in accordance with Section 23 of the Act.

> Protection Against Abandonment :- Abandoning a senior citizen by a person having the care or protection of that senior citizen is an offence punishable under the Act.

> Right to Medical Support :- The Act provides for measures relating to medical support for senior citizens, including provisions concerning healthcare and geriatric support.

> Right to Welfare Services :- The Act provides for measures relating to old-age homes, medical care, publicity and awareness, and implementation mechanisms for the welfare of senior citizens.

3. NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens)Scheme, 2016

The NALSA (Legal Services to Sr.,Citizens) Scheme, 2016 aims to ensure that senior citizens are able to effectively access legal aid, advice, assistance and justice.

The Scheme focuses on:

* Identification of senior citizens requiring legal assistance.
* Providing free legal services to eligible persons.
* Legal advice and counselling.
* Assistance in matters concerning maintenance and welfare.
* Assistance relating to property and inheritance disputes.
* Assistance in cases of neglect, abuse, abandonment and exploitation.
* Creating awareness about the rights and welfare schemes available to senior citizens.
* Assistance through Legal Services Institutions and Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs).
* Facilitating access to appropriate authorities, tribunals and courts.
* Promoting coordination among Legal Services Institutions and concerned government departments and agencies.
* NALSA's scheme specifically recognizes senior citizens as beneficiaries of dedicated legal services.

4. Maintenance & Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

The Act provides a legal framework for:

Maintenance → Welfare → Medical Support → Protection of Life → Protection of Property → Legal Remedies.

> The Act establishes Maintenance Tribunals in every Revenue Divisions and Appellate Tribunals in every district and provides a mechanism for seeking maintenance and other protections.

5. Common Problems - You Have Legal Remedies .

> Are you being neglected by your children or relatives ?.

* You may seek maintenance and appropriate legal assistance.

> Are you being forced to leave your home ?.

* Seek immediate assistance from the Legal Services Institution, police or appropriate authority.

> Has your property been taken or misused ?.

* Seek legal advice regarding title, possession, transfer, gift, settlement, will and other property issues.

> Have you been abandoned?

* Abandonment of a senior citizen in circumstances covered by the Act is punishable.

> Are you facing financial fraud or cheating?

* Approach the police and Legal Services Institution immediately.

> Are you unable to afford a lawyer?

* Approach the Legal Services Authority for free legal services, subject to applicable eligibility provisions.

6. What Can Legal Services Institutions Do ?.

DLSAs / TLSCs / Legal Services Authorities can facilitate:

✓ Free legal advice and assistance.
✓ Legal representation wherever legally permissible.
✓ Assistance in approaching Maintenance Tribunals.
✓ Assistance in property and inheritance matters.
✓ Assistance in cases of abuse, neglect and abandonment.
✓ Mediation and amicable settlement wherever appropriate.
✓ Legal awareness programmes.
✓ Assistance through Para-Legal Volunteers.
✓ Referral and coordination with concerned departments and authorities.
✓ Follow-up to facilitate access to justice and welfare services.

7. Role of Para Legal Volunteers.

Para-Legal Volunteers can serve as a bridge between senior citizens and the Legal Services Institutions. They can:

IDENTIFY → INFORM → ASSIST → REFER → FOLLOW UP

* Identify vulnerable senior citizens.
* Create awareness about legal rights and welfare schemes.
* Help them approach the DLSA/TLSC.
* Facilitate access to legal aid and appropriate authorities.
* Assist in cases involving neglect, abuse, abandonment and property disputes.
* Follow up, wherever appropriate, with the concerned Legal Services Institution.

8. Do not Suffer in Silence.

Senior citizens have rights.

Rights must be known.

Rights must be protected.

Justice must be accessible.

If you or another senior citizen is facing:

Neglect | Abuse | Abandonment | Property Dispute | Maintenance Problem | Fraud | Cheating | Denial of Welfare Benefits.

Seek Legal Assistance Without Any Delay.

9. Where Can You Seek Help ?.

Telangana State Legal Services Authority.

For assistance, approach the appropriate:

* District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).
* Taluk Legal Services Committee (TLSC).
* Legal Services Clinic / Front Office.
* NALSA Legal Aid Helpline - 15100.

10. Our Commitment.

"No Senior Citizen Should Be Left Without Support, Dignity Or Access To Justice"

Legal Awareness • Legal Aid • Protection • Welfare • Dignity

Let Us Build A Society Where Every Senior Citizen Lives with:

DIGNITY • SECURITY • RESPECT • JUSTICE

Issued for Legal Awareness and Outreach

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