A Legal Aid representative will review your tax problem and discuss how we may assist you. Most people receive information and advice even when their tax case is not accepted for extended service.

All the information you give Legal Aid is private. Even if you turn down our assistance or do not receive help from our LITC, your information stays confidential.

If you are part of a community group or an organization and want to schedule a tax presentation or training on a particular topic for your service providers or your clientele, please email Anne K. Sweeney, Managing Attorney for Community Engagement, at anne.sweeney@lasclev.org.

This brochure was prepared by Legal Aid, which serves low-income residents of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Lorain counties in Northeast Ohio.

Intake Line for New Legal Cases
Toll Free: 888.817.3777

Tenant Information Line
Call for info related to tenants’ rights and rental housing.
(This line does not provide legal advice.)
216.861.5955

Learn more about Legal Aid and upcoming brief advice clinics:
www.lasclev.org

Legal Aid Offices:
Cleveland & Administrative Offices
1223 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, OH 44113

Elyria Office
1530 West River Road, Suite 301, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Jefferson Office
121 East Walnut Street, Jefferson, OH 44047

Painesville Office
8 North State Street, Suite 300, Painesville, OH 44077

The information in this brochure cannot take the place of advice from a lawyer. Each case is different and needs individual legal advice. You should contact a lawyer if you need representation or if you have questions.

If you have a communications limitation, contact Legal Aid through the Ohio Relay Service at 800.750.0750.

Legal Aid offers interpretation and translation services so those with limited English proficiency can communicate with Legal Aid staff in their dominant and/or preferred language.
Legal Aid’s Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) assists low-income taxpayers in resolving their disputes with the IRS about federal income tax matters.

We provide free legal services to people whose income is too small to hire a private attorney.

If you have a tax problem with the IRS, please contact us to discuss it. Depending upon your circumstance, we may assist you in the following ways:

**Education** – We can answer your tax questions, as well as provide you with important information and direction.

**Negotiation** – We can negotiate with the IRS to obtain a reasonable payment plan and/or an offer-in-compromise that may reduce your tax burden. If your current expenses exceed your income, you may qualify for currently not collectible status.

**Litigation** – When your case must go to court, we can represent you.

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**We can help you by:**

- Offering the IRS a payment of less money than the debt you owe to settle your tax dispute;
- Reducing or eliminating the taxable income you receive from a bank or credit card company when it forgives your debt;
- Assisting you with the earned income tax credit so that you keep more of what you earn;
- Informing H-2A workers of their tax filing obligations and of how filing federal taxes helps in obtaining citizenship;
- Stopping the IRS from taking your social security benefits, wages or property;
- Protecting you from spousal abuses related to your tax return(s);
- Requesting your income tax records;
- Helping you fix the theft of your identity;
- Assisting you with tax preparer fraud;
- Advising you of your rights and duties within the health care marketplace;
- Fixing underreporting issues;
- Discussing your options and assisting you on many other tax matters.

Legal Aid does not help you prepare taxes. But, we may refer you to organizations that can help you. A list of free tax preparers is posted on our website at www.lasclev.org/taxpreplocations

A tax preparer can assist you with return preparation from early January through the tax filing deadline each year.

**How to contact our LITC for help:**

Call or visit any Legal Aid Society office listed on the back of this brochure during intake hours.

Be prepared to give the intake specialist the following information:

- Contact information
- Current income and assets
- Social Security number
- If you are claiming children, the names, dates of birth, and social security numbers of the children and their parents
- The names, dates of birth and social security numbers of any adult dependents you seek to claim
- A complete description of your federal tax matter

You also will be asked to deliver to Legal Aid the following documents, by fax, email or by dropping off the papers to our office:

- Any tax bills, letters or notices from the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) or the U.S. Tax Court;
- Any letters you have written to the IRS;
- A copy of the tax return you filed for the year in question, with supporting documents; and,
- Pay stubs and/or earnings statements.