

Disability Law Service

Fighting injustice for disabled people

Advice and Advocacy Services and Law Centres in Scotland

As a not for profit charity, we rely on your donations. If you find this factsheet useful, please consider making a donation of £5 to help us to continue to help others.

Just text: **THNX01 £5 to 70070**

Advice and Advocacy Services and Law Centres in Scotland

Most Law Centres will deal with civil matters only, if your problem is to do with criminal law or there is no law centre in your area, you should contact the **Scottish Law Society** which will be able to help you find a Solicitor. It can be contacted in the following ways.

Telephone: 0131 226 7411

Website: www.lawscot.org.uk

E-mail: Lawscot@lawscot.org.uk

Advice and advocacy services may be better for more minor issues not necessarily needing special legal knowledge. If they cannot help you they should refer you to a law centre or the Scottish law society.

NB:- Some services only deal with people from a certain area of the country or from a certain group (e.g. Students, people with learning difficulties, etc.) and most only deal with certain areas of law (employment, welfare benefits, etc.) Please make sure the service you are contacting matches your needs as far as possible.

Advice and Advocacy services

National Organisations

- **Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance**

Telephone: **0131 524 1975**

Website: www.siaa.org.uk

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) promotes, supports and defends the principles and practice of Independent Advocacy across Scotland. Its aim is to ensure that Independent Advocacy is available to any vulnerable person in Scotland.

- **Disability Information Scotland**

Telephone: **0300 323 9961**

Text: **0778 620 0707**

Website: www.disabilityscot.org.uk

E-mail: info@disabilityscot.org.uk

Previously known as Update, Disability Information Scotland helps to guide people through the maze of disability information. They offer information via a telephone helpline, text and email services, their website, online Scottish Disability Directory and a range of information guides and other resources.

- **Lead Scotland**

Helpline: **0800 999 2568**

Textphone: **(18001) 0131 228 9441**

Website: www.lead.org.uk

E-mail: enquiries@lead.org.uk

Lead Scotland is a charity which provides learning, befriending and helpline services for disabled people and carers.

- **Citizens Advice Scotland**

Website www.cas.org.uk

Consumer helpline: **03454 04 05 06**

There are 60 Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) across Scotland, offering face-to-face advice on a wide range of issues. Find your local Citizens Advice Bureau online.

- **Office of the Public Guardian (Scotland)**

Website: www.publicguardian-scotland.gov.uk

E-mail: opg@scotcourts.gov.uk

Telephone: **01324 678300**

Enquiries relating to a Scottish power of attorney or an application made under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.

- **Patient Advice and Support Service (PASS) Scotland**

Website: www.cas.org.uk/pass

Telephone: 0800 917 2127

Free, confidential & independent advice and support for patients of the NHS in Scotland. PASS is delivered by Citizens Advice Bureaux in Scotland.

- **The Scottish Information Commissioner**

Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info

Telephone: **01334 464610**

E-mail enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

The Scottish Information Commissioner is the independent public official responsible for promoting and enforcing Scotland's freedom of information (FOI) law.

- **Scottish Child Law Centre**

Website: www.sclc.org.uk

Advice Line: **0131 667 6333** (Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.00pm)

Freecall Under 21s (landlines) **0800 328 8970** (mobiles) **0300 3301421**

E-mail: advice@sclsc.org.uk

Free legal advice for and about children and young people. The Scottish Child Law Centre help children and young people, their families, carers, and professionals working for and with children by providing free expert legal advice and information through their advice line, email and website.

Local Organisations

- **Kindred (Edinburgh)**

Website: www.kindred-scotland.org

Helpline: **0800 031 5793**

Email: enquiries@kindred-scotland.org

The Kindred Helpline can provide information and support on a wide range of subjects including support and information with regard to school placements, applications for trust grant funds for specialist equipment and grants required for caring, assistance with applying for benefits such as Disability Living Allowance and advocacy support for statutory meetings with health, social work, education and housing.

- **Kindred (Fife)**

Website: www.kindred-scotland.org

Helpline: **0800 031 5793** (option 3)

Email: FifeEnquiries@kindred-scotland.org

The Kindred Helpline team based in Dunfermline covers the whole of Fife and provide support and information with regard to education, including school placements, applications for trust grant funds for specialist equipment and grants required for caring, assistance with applying for benefits such as Disability Living allowance, advocacy support for statutory meetings and informal parent support groups.

- **Vocal**

Edinburgh

Telephone: **0131 622 6666**

E-mail: centre@vocal.org.uk

Midlothian

Telephone: **0131 663 6869**

E-mail: midlothian@vocal.org.uk

VOCAL supports and empowers unpaid carers in Edinburgh and Midlothian through individual support, information, training and access to services.

- **Disabled Persons Housing Service (Aberdeen)**

Website: www.dphsaberdeen.org

Telephone: **01224 810222**

Email: info@dphsaberdeen.org

DHPS is a local charity offering information, advice and advocacy to people with a disability, their families and carers about housing options in and around the Aberdeen area.

- **Disabled Persons Housing Service (Fife)**

Website: www.dphsfife.org.uk

Telephone: **01592 803280**

Email: enquiries@dphsfife.org.uk

Provide full independent housing information, advice and support for disabled people in Fife, assisting them to find the right housing solution that meets their needs.

- **Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living**

Website: www.gcil.org.uk

Telephone: **0141 550 4455**

Textphone: **0141 554 6482**

GCIL provide a variety of services that support disabled people in Glasgow. They can assist on; people managing their own support arrangements using direct payments, training for personal assistants and their employers, housing information, advice and advocacy, employment and training opportunities for disabled people.

- **Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living**

Website: www.lothiancil.org.uk

Telephone: **0131 475 2350**

Minicom: **0131 475 2463**

LCiL offers information and advice on independent living support, payroll services, training services for disabled employers and personal assistants, access to work for individuals, employers and support organisations and living and work choices information.

- **The Action Group** (East Central Scotland)

Website: www.actiongroup.org.uk

Telephone: **0131 475 2315**

E-mail: info@actiongroup.org.uk

The Action Group offers advice and information on welfare rights and financial inclusion, children and adult transition, housing and community support services, self-directed support and money advice for children and adults with support needs and learning difficulties.

Law Centres

- **Legal Services Agency**

Website: www.lsa.org.uk

Telephone: **0800 316 8450 / 01471 353 3354**

E-mail: lsa@btconnect.com

LSA is a Law Centre and Charity which provides skilled legal advice, assistance and representation to vulnerable people and those who would otherwise find it difficult to get legal advice. They have offices in Glasgow (central and Royston), Edinburgh and Greenock.

- **Dundee North Law Centre**

101 Whitfield Drive, Dundee, DD4 0DX,

Telephone: **01382 307230**

E-mail: reception@dundeenorhlawcentre.co.uk

Free legal advice, assistance and representation services for residents of Mid Craigie, Linlathen, Whitfield, Kirkton, Ardler, Mill o'Mains, Charleston, Maxwelltown and South Hilltown, Lochee, Fintry.

- **Edinburgh University Legal Advice Centre**

Website: www.freelegaladvice.ed.ac.uk

Telephone: **0800 073 0150**

E-mail: freelegaladvice@ed.ac.uk

The legal advice centre delivers pro bono legal services to members of the public living in and around the Edinburgh area. They provide advice and assistance on company & commercial, contract, disputes, employment, family, property, intellectual property, landlord and tenant, wills and inheritance, personal injury.

- **Ethnic Minorities Law Centre**

Website: www.emlc.org.uk

Telephone (Glasgow): **0141 204 2888**

Telephone (Edinburgh): **0131 229 2038**

ELMC provides legal advice and representation to individuals from Scotland's Minority Ethnic Communities. Specialist areas of law include immigration and asylum, employment and discrimination.

- **Fife Law Centre**

Ore Valley Business Centre, Lochgelly, Fife, KY5 9AF

Telephone: **01592 786 710**

Website: www.fifelawcentre.co.uk

E-mail: info@fifelawcentre.co.uk

The law centre can assist you if you have mortgage or rent arrears and are threatened by eviction, if you have complex welfare benefits issues such as an appeal to Upper Tribunal or overpayment of benefits. Fife Law Centre can provide assistance with adults with incapacity, child law, criminal injuries compensation, rights for refugees and migrants, persons in insecure immigration situation and other miscellaneous issues.

- **South East Glasgow Law & Money Advice Services**

Website: www.castlemilklawcentre.co.uk

The South East Glasgow Law and Money Advice Services offer free and confidential legal advice in the following areas: benefits, compensation, consumer issues, discrimination/human rights, employment, family and relationships and housing. Check the website for your nearest centre.

- **Drumchapel Law and Money Advice Centre**

Unit 1, KCEDG Commercial Centre, Ladyloan Place, Drumchapel, Glasgow,
G15 8LB

Telephone: **0141 944 0507**

Website: www.dmac.btck.co.uk

E-mail: admin@d-mac.org.uk

DMAC offer advice, advocacy, information and representation on various issues including welfare benefits entitlement, rent arrears and debt counselling.

- **Govan Law Centre**

Orkney Street Enterprise Centre (Units 4 & 6), 18-20 Orkney Street, Glasgow,
G51 2BZ

Telephone: **0141 440 2503**

Website: www.govanlc.blogspot.com

Govan Law Centre offers advice and assistance in consumer, debt, education, employment and housing.

- **Advice Renfrewshire**

Website: advicerenfrewshire.org

Telephone: **0808 1642922**

Find free, confidential, impartial advice in Renfrewshire.

Disability Law Service

Fighting injustice for disabled people

The Foundry
17 Oval Way
London
SE11 5RR

Telephone: **020 7791 9800**

Email: **advice@dls.org.uk**

Website: www.dls.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: **280805**

Company Registration Number: **1408520**

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