



# Legal Assistance: Finding Resources and Support

Whether you have cancer or are caring for someone who does, you may need legal help at some point in your cancer experience. You have a legal right to certain benefits, including workplace and partnership protections. There are many local and national organizations available to assist you.



## Know Your Rights

Federal law provides specific employment protections to individuals with cancer. The **Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)** entitles covered employees to 12 weeks of unpaid leave per year when they or a family member is sick with cancer. FMLA protections require that employers continue to provide covered employees with the same level of health insurance while on leave.

If you leave your job or are laid off, a federal law called the **Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)** provides most employees the right to keep their health insurance, although premiums must be paid by the employee. The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** provides significant additional workplace, housing and educational rights. State and local laws may also provide individuals with cancer with other protections and rights.

Oncology social workers are licensed professionals who can help you locate, understand and apply for benefits. A CancerCare oncology social worker can help you find resources that fit your needs. To learn more, visit [www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org), or call 800-813-HOPE (4673).



## Legal Services

### CancerCare's LegalHealth Clinic

CancerCare and the LegalHealth division of the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) have joined to offer free legal clinics for CancerCare clients who reside in New York City. LegalHealth focuses on assisting people with health care-related legal needs. LegalHealth attorneys can provide assistance with government benefits, immigration, insurance disputes, debt issues, employment matters, housing, custody planning, estate planning and advance directives. For more information, call 800-813-HOPE (4673).

### Cancer Legal Resource Center

[thedrlc.org/cancer/](http://thedrlc.org/cancer/)  
866-843-2572

The Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC) is a national, joint program of the Disability Rights Legal Center and Loyola Law School Los Angeles. The CLRC provides free information and resources on cancer-related legal issues to cancer survivors, caregivers, health care professionals, employers and others coping with cancer. They also offer a toll-free Telephone Assistance Line (866-THE-CLRC) where callers can receive free and confidential information about relevant laws and resources for their particular situation.





## Legal Services

### **LawHelp.org**

[www.lawhelp.org](http://www.lawhelp.org)

LawHelp.org helps low- and moderate-income people find free legal aid programs in their communities and answers to questions about their legal rights. Use the state list on their website to find help related to housing, work, family, bankruptcy, disability, immigration and other topics.

### **National Cancer Legal Services Network**

[triagecancer.org/national-cancer-legal-services-network](http://triagecancer.org/national-cancer-legal-services-network)

The National Cancer Legal Services Network promotes increased availability of free legal services programs so that people affected by cancer may focus on medical care and their quality of life. Their network includes over 40 programs nationwide.

### **National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership**

[www.medical-legalpartnership.org](http://www.medical-legalpartnership.org)

National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership aims to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals, children and families by integrating legal assistance into the medical setting. Search for local programs through their MLP Network by visiting [www.medical-legalpartnership.org/partnerships](http://www.medical-legalpartnership.org/partnerships).

### **The Samfund: Support for Young Adult Cancer Survivors**

[www.thesamfund.org](http://www.thesamfund.org)

617-938-3484

The Samfund provides support to young adults who are struggling financially due to cancer. Twice a year, The Samfund gives grants to survivors age 21 to 39 to help with medical bills, living expenses, educational/professional development, graduate tuition, student loans, cosmetic or reconstructive procedures, family building options/procedures, health insurance supplementation, mental health, physical therapy, residual and current medical expenses, transportation-related expenses, legal expenses and rent/mortgage supplementation.

### **CancerCare® Can Help**

For over 80 years, CancerCare has empowered millions of people affected by cancer through free counseling, resource navigation, support groups, educational resources, advocacy and direct financial assistance. Our oncology social workers improve the lives of people diagnosed with cancer, caregivers, survivors and the bereaved, by addressing their emotional, practical and financial challenges.

To learn more, visit [www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org) or call **800-813-HOPE (4673)**.

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