

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault is any type of forced or coerced sexual contact or behavior that happens without consent. It may include rape, attempted rape, child molestation, or threats.

ABOUT LASSA

The Legal Aid for Survivors of Sexual Assault (LASSA) Project is a project of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) and serves 182 Texas counties from the panhandle to the Texas-Mexico border. LASSA provides survivors of sexual assault with a wide range of free legal services from general advice to holistic, direct representation on civil legal matters. LASSA works directly with partner agencies, including rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters, for community outreach, education, and cross-agency referrals. Funding for the LASSA Project comes from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation.

TO APPLY FOR FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Call **1-800-991-5153**

Visit **legalaidforsurvivors.org** OR

If you are already receiving assistance from your local domestic violence shelter or rape crisis center, ask your advocate for a referral.



How a Lawyer Can Help

We are here to help.

1-800-991-5153

legalaidforsurvivors.org

Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid & the Legal Aid for Survivors of Sexual Assault Project provide assistance without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or AIDS-related illness.



300 S. Texas Blvd.
Weslaco, TX 78596
www.trla.org



Justice is not limited to the criminal prosecution of your case. Surviving sexual assault can be overwhelming. A lawyer can be an important tool in handling the legal issues related to a sexual assault. LASSA provides survivors of sexual assault with a wide-range of free legal services to help, including:

SAFETY & PRIVACY

When you fear for your safety or are worried about protecting your information

LASSA can help you file for a protective order, make plans for your safety, and apply for Crime Victims' Compensation. Advocates can work with schools, employers, and medical providers to protect your medical, education, shelter, and rape crisis center records.

HOUSING

When you need or want to find a new place to live

LASSA can represent you in housing authority matters and during eviction proceedings, negotiate with landlords to break leases or increase safety, educate tenants and landlords about victim protections, and identify legal solutions for accessing public and private housing.

FAMILY

When you need to rebuild and protect your family

LASSA can represent you in filing for divorce, pursuing child custody or child support, changing your name, or defending yourself in a CPS investigation.

EMPLOYMENT

When your work environment is uncomfortable, you need time off, or you can't work

LASSA can assist you with workers' compensation claims and represent you in sexual harassment and discrimination complaints.

EDUCATION

When you don't feel safe at school or need more support to reach your educational goals

LASSA can represent you in campus sexual assault hearings or school discipline hearings, assess whether schools are in compliance with state and federal laws, and help you receive education services and disability benefits.

PUBLIC BENEFITS

When you qualify for public benefit programs including Medicaid, Food Stamps, Social Security, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

LASSA can assess your eligibility for public benefits, help you apply, and represent you if your benefits are denied.

CONSUMER

When your financial situation is uncertain

LASSA can help you evaluate your credit, respond to debt collectors, fight identity theft and errors on credit reports, and avoid unfair consumer practices.

IMMIGRATION

When you are undocumented or do not have legal status

LASSA can help you apply for work permits, temporary immigration status, or legal permanent residency. Advocates can also represent you in immigration court.

PROBATE

When you can no longer make safe decisions for yourself or your property

LASSA can help you and your family with guardianships and powers of attorney.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

When you identify as foster youth, a veteran, or LGBTQ

LASSA advocates have extensive experience handling the delicate issues that may arise when a survivor is in or aging out of foster care, a member of the military, or identifies as LGBTQ.