



Wabanaki Legal News

Volume 7 Issue 1

www.ptla.org/wabanaki/wabanaki.htm

A Newsletter of Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Winter 2003

☒ Outreach ☒

Staff of the Native American Unit travel on a regular basis to the Tribal communities in Presque Isle, Houlton, Indian Island, Pleasant point, and Indian Township to meet with clients. If you have a question or want to meet with us. Please call to arrange a date and time. Call 1-800-879-7463 and ask for Danny or Judith. Also, outreach dates will be posted in the tribal offices at least one week prior to our visit.

Please Let Us Know

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is looking for feed-back on this Newsletter.

► Does the *Wabanaki Legal News* give you information that is useful? ► Are there other issues of interest to you that we should be covering? ► Do you have any other concerns that you would like us to know about?

Please call Cushing Samp at 1-800-879-7463 or send e-mail to csamp@ptla.org with your thoughts and comments.

Pine Tree Case Summaries

The following are summaries of some of the cases Pine Tree Native American Unit attorneys have handled over the last six months. You can call attorneys Judith Plano or Mike Guare or paralegal Danny Mills at 1-800-879-7463.

Housing:

Two clients called Pine Tree because they were being evicted from Native housing. Judith Plano worked with each Housing Authority to have the evictions dropped. The clients were able to remain in their homes.

Another client, who was disabled, was being evicted from her trailer because the new owner of the park wished to get rid of the old trailer she lived in and replace it with a new trailer with higher rent. Judith Plano was able to negotiate a six-month stay of the eviction process to allow the client to find other housing and also protect the client, who was ill, from having to move during the winter months.


Another client had rented an off reservation apartment. The apartment was in terrible shape. There was no water in the kitchen sink, so dishes had to be washed in the bathtub. The floor had rotted around the toilet and the ceiling in the bathroom was falling in. There was no exit in case of fire and there was mold. The client came to Pine Tree and Judith Plano advised him not to pay rent to the landlord. Instead, Pine Tree would keep the rent in a

separate account for him. Judith advised the client that if he were sued for non-payment of rent, Judith would argue that the apartment did not meet the required warranty of habitability as a defense. The client did not take this advice, but nevertheless fell behind in his rent.

Judith did not hear back from the client and she closed the case. The next week the client called back. He and two other tenants had been to court for non-payment and had brought up the question of the warranty of habitability. The judge significantly reduced the rent until the deficiencies were cured. The Order was to be sent to all defendants but, by mistake was only sent to the first-named defendant. The other two defendants, including the client, did not know they had a deadline in which to notify the court that they would accept the reduced rent. The client came to see Judith the day of the deadline, after court had closed, with a copy of the order. Judith made a Motion to Alter or Amend the Judgment giving her client two more days to notify the court. The court granted the request, the client notified the court that he would accept the conditions, and the client was not evicted.

Family Law:

Judith recently completed a trial in Tribal Court involving custody and visitation. The judge was able to hear the mother's concerns regarding the father's stability and ordered limited visitation.

In another family law case, the parent with custody was moving out of state with the child. Pine Tree filed a motion on behalf of the non-custodial parent, seeking custody of the child due to substantial change of circumstances. Any time a custodial parent moves a long distance away, the court considers that a substantial change of circumstances and the court will reopen the case upon the request of the other party. 

Pine Tree Can Help You File Your Taxes Electronically And Save!

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a partner in the I-CAN Earned Income Credit and electronic tax return filing project (<http://www.ptla.org/icanindex.htm>). If you are eligible for the Earned Income Credit, you can prepare your tax return on line and, if you choose, file it electronically. Just go to the web site listed above and follow the instructions.

The system makes it **very easy** to fill out your tax forms. Using this service means **you will not have to pay for tax preparation** and allows you to **keep more income!!** You can get your checks in **three to four weeks** if you file electronically and within **a few days** if you allow the IRS to deposit your money directly into your bank account!



Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic Notes

If you are a grandparent raising your grandchildren, federal tax law permits you to claim the children as dependents on your federal tax returns. Grandchildren may also be "qualifying children" for the purposes of claiming the earned income tax credit (EIC), the additional child tax credit, and for claiming "head of household filing status." The same rules apply to siblings, nieces, nephews, and adopted children who are raised in your home for more than half of the year. Additionally, foster children qualify for the same treatment as long as the child was placed in the taxpayer's home by an official placement agency.

However, many people find that the IRS audits their tax returns when they claim a grandchild, niece, or nephew as a dependent or as a qualifying child for EIC. The audit is the IRS's way of asking a person to provide information in support of a claim made on a tax return.

Audits can be avoided or simplified if you can provide the IRS with supporting evidence at the time you file your tax return. In order to prove that a child is a qualifying child for the EIC, you must prove that the child satisfies the Age Test, the Relationship Test, and the Residence Test.

The Age Test requires that a child be under 19 years old at the end of the tax year or a full-time student under the age of 24. A child who is permanently and totally disabled may be any age.

Under the Relationship Test, your child must be your son, daughter, adopted child, grandchild, stepchild, or eligible foster child. The child may also be your niece or nephew that you raise in your home as your own child. The child must live in your home for more than half of the year. A foster child must have been placed in your home by an official placement agency unless the child is your brother or sister's child.

The Residence Test requires that your child must have lived with you in the United States for more than half of 2002.

The Age Test may be satisfied by the child's birth (or adoption) certificate. A birth certificate which shows the names of the child's parents will satisfy the relationship test for a biological child, and an adoption or foster-placement document will satisfy the relationship test for an adopted or foster child. In the case of a grandchild, niece, or nephew, the relationship can be established by the child's birth certificate plus the birth certificate of the child's parent and, in the case of a niece or nephew, your own birth certificate as well. In these cases, your relationship to the child is established by means of your relationship to the child's parent.

The Residence Test must be satisfied with a third-party record. Schools, doctors, and health centers are good sources for records of where the child actually lives. Tribal membership records, custody orders from the

Tribal Court, or verification from a tribal agency are also useful as third-party records.

For more information, call Paul Harrison at 1-800-879-7463.

Important Tax Information



Claim your Earned Income Credit



If you worked in 2002, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Credit. If so, you'll owe less in taxes, and you could get cash back. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EIC.

- ** If you raised one child in your home in 2002 and your family earned less than \$29,201 (or \$30,201 for married workers), you can get up to \$2,506.
- ** If you raised more than one child in your home in 2002 and your family earned less than \$33,178 (or \$34,178 for married workers), you can get up to \$4,140.
- ** If you weren't raising a child, were between the ages of 25 and 64 on December 31, 2002, and earned less than \$11,060 in 2002, you can get up to \$376.
- ** If you were raising children in 2002, you must file federal tax return Forms 1040 or 1040A and **must** fill out and attach Schedule EIC. **You cannot get the EIC if you fill out Form 1040EZ or fail to attach Schedule EIC.** Married workers must file a joint return.
- ** If you weren't raising children in 2002, file the return you would normally file (including the 1040EZ). Be sure to write "EIC" or the dollar amount of your credit on the Earned Income Credit line of your tax form. Do **not** file Schedule EIC.
- ** You don't have to calculate your own EIC. If you choose, the IRS will do it for you.



Questions & Answers About the EIC:



Which children qualify for the EIC?

The following children qualify:

- ✓ Sons, daughters, stepchildren, grandchildren, and adopted children
- ✓ Brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, or stepsisters – as well as descendants of such relatives – if they were cared for as members of the family
- ✓ Other children may qualify as foster children, but only if they are placed with the worker by an authorized government or private placement agency
- ✓ Qualifying children must live with the worker for more than half of the year. (As of 2002, a full year is no longer required for foster children.) They must be under age 19, or under age 24 if they are full-time students. Totally and permanently disabled children of any age also may be qualifying children. Valid Social Security numbers are required for qualifying children

(Continued on next page)



("EIC" continued from page 2)

born before December 31, 2002.

What if I don't know how to file a tax return?

To get free help filing your tax return and for more information about the Earned Income Credit, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Can I get a quick refund with my Earned Income Credit?

Yes. But it may not be your best choice. Quick refunds take away money from your EIC. Remember, free tax help is available.

What if I'm not a U.S. citizen?

Many legal immigrants who are employed are eligible for the EIC. Getting the credit will not hurt your immigration status. If you are a Canadian-born Native American, you may be eligible.

I work and get public Assistance benefits. If I get the EIC, will I lose my other benefits?

In most cases, no. The EIC does not affect federal benefits like TANF, Food Stamps, SSI, Medicaid or housing.



Get FREE Help Filing Your Taxes!

VITA, a program of the IRS, helps people fill out their tax forms for **free**. VITA sites are open from late January through April 15. To find the VITA site near you, call 1-800-829-1040. Be patient -- the line is often busy. **Remember: paying for tax preparation takes money away from YOUR refund.**

Five Helpful Changes to the EIC this Year

1. The EIC benefit has increased for married workers. Eligible married workers who were raising children and earned above \$13,520 in 2002 will get a slightly higher EIC than a single worker with the same income. Eligible married workers not claiming a child and with income above \$6,150, will also get slightly more than a single worker with the same income.
2. The residency requirement for foster children has been changed. In the past, a foster child had to have lived with you for 12 months in order to be a qualifying child. Now, foster children are treated like other children and must live with you for "more than half of the year."
3. Claims by custodial parents have priority. Under previous rules, if a parent and grandparent lived together and could claim the same qualifying child (because the child could be claimed as the child of one and the grandchild of the other) the person with



Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a non-profit organization that gives free legal help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) legal problems

Due to federal budget cuts, Pine Tree has lost some staff. As a result, Pine Tree has had to limit the types of cases that it handles. We have given high priorities to the following kinds of case:

- ✖ Eviction from public housing
- ✖ Home foreclosures
- ✖ Domestic violence
- ✖ Problems with Medicare or Medicaid
- ✖ Loss, reduction or denial of government benefits (food stamps, TANF, Social Security, etc.)
- ✖ Tax Problems

If you are low-income and need legal help in one of these areas, call the nearest Pine Tree office. If you are a farmworker with employment problems, call the Farmworker Unit at 1-800-879-7463.

Pine Tree also has a Native American Unit in Bangor. The number is 1-800-879-7463. Call the unit if you are a low-income Native American with civil legal problems.

the highest income got the credit. Now, the parent can claim the credit even if the parent's income is lower than the grandparent's. If the parent does **not** claim the credit, however, the grandparent may claim it.

4. Non-taxable income is no longer included as income for the EIC. In the past, non-taxable earned income, such as a housing and subsistence allowance for members of the military, were included in the calculation of how much earned income you had. Now, these types of income are not considered. If you are affected by this change, you will be eligible for a larger credit than you received in the past.
5. Your adjusted gross income will no longer be "modified" to calculate your income. In the past, EIC eligibility was based on your "modified adjusted gross income." This meant that certain things, such as business losses, were added back to your income. In some cases, this modified income would have been too high to claim the EIC. Now, those modifications have been eliminated and your EIC eligibility will be figured using only your adjusted gross income. If you were not eligible last year because your modified income was too high, you may be eligible this year.

Avoid Refund Delays!

Be sure to provide the correct name and Social Security number for each person listed on your tax return.





Increase Your Take-Home Pay With The EIC Advance Payment Option

Most workers get their EIC in one large check from the IRS after they file a tax return. You have another choice. Your employer can add part of your EIC to every paycheck. You get the rest of your credit after you file your return.

In 2003, you can qualify for an Advance EIC payment if you have at least one qualifying child and you expect your 2003 income to be less than \$29,666 (\$30,666 if you are married).

If you are not raising a child in your home, you are not eligible for advance payments. You are not eligible if you get paid day to day; if you have no Social Security and Medicare taxes withheld from your pay; or if you are a self-employed worker who cannot advance your EIC to yourself.

In order to get the advance payment, just fill out a **W-5 form** called the "Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate" and give the bottom part to your employer. You should be able to get the form from your employer. You can also get the form by calling **1-800-TAX-FORM** or you can download the form from the IRS website at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>. You can file a W-5 any time during the year, but you must file a new W-5 at the beginning of every year in order to continue getting advance payments.

You should **not** ask for advance payment if you hold more than one job; if you expect to get married during the year and both of you work; if you expect your income to increase a lot during the year; or if you have a spouse who also works, unless you both take advance payments. If something happens during the year that would change the amount of the EIC you should be getting, such as getting married or a big raise, you can ask your employer to stop putting advance payments in your paycheck. Just fill out another W-5 form and give it to your employer.

If you get advance payments during the year, you must file a tax return at the end of the year **and** include the total amount you received as an advance payment. You must also file Schedule EIC

Child Tax Credit Benefits Many Workers Receiving the EIC



The Child Tax Credit is now worth up to \$600 for each dependent child under age 17. In 2002, even families that earned too little to owe income tax can get the credit. This credit is different than the Child and Dependent Care Credit that helps workers who need day care in order to work.

To be eligible for the credit, you must be able to claim an exemption for a dependent child under age 17, have taxable income of \$10,350, and have either a Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. Immigrant workers with either type of number may be able to claim the credit. This credit does not affect your ability to take the EIC and will not reduce any benefits you can get from the EIC.


You must file Form 1040 or 1040A (**not** 1040EZ) in order to claim the credit. The credit is first used to reduce or eliminate any tax that you might owe. If any credit is left after your income tax has been eliminated, you then must file Form 8812 to find out if you qualify for a refund.

Under a rule that was in effect until 2001, some low-income families with three or more children have qualified for an "Additional Child Tax Credit." For some families, the refund they would have gotten under the old rules would be larger than the amount they would get under the new rules. Form 8812 allows those families to claim the refund amount that is the higher of the two.



The Child and Dependent Care Credit

You may also qualify for another federal tax credit. The Child and Dependent Care Credit is a tax benefit that helps you pay for childcare you need in order to work or look for work. ~~The credit is also open to you if~~ you must pay for the care of a spouse or an adult dependent who cannot care for him or herself.

In the past, many low-income families could not take advantage of both the Child Tax Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Credit. That has changed. Now, you may find that the effect of the Child and Dependent Care Credit is to increase the amount of any refund you might be eligible for with the Child Tax Credit. 

You can claim this credit as well as the EIC. You should know, however, that if you earn too little to pay federal income tax, you **cannot** get this credit. This is different from the EIC. You can claim the EIC even if you are earning too little to pay income tax.

You can claim this credit if

- ✧ You paid for care in 2002 for a child under age 13 or for a disabled adult who lived with your family, **and**
- ✧ You needed the child or dependent care in order to work or look for work (In a two-parent family, both spouses must have needed care available in order to work or look for work, unless one spouse was a full-time student or unable to care for him or herself), **and**
- ✧ You paid over half the cost of keeping up your home (such as rent, food, etc), **and**
- ✧ You paid less for your dependent care than your 2002 income. If you are married and filing jointly, the income of the spouse with the lowest income must be more than the amount you paid for care. There are

(Continued on next page)



("Child and Dependent Care Credit" continued from page 4)

special rules for figuring the income of a spouse who was a full-time student or disabled.

The size of your credit will depend on the number of children or dependents needing care, the amount of your income and what you paid for care during the year.

In order to claim the credit, you must file Form 1040 or 1040A. Specific instructions on this Credit are included with the forms. If you need help, contact the VITA site nearest you. You may get free information about this Credit, or any other tax matter, by calling 1-800-TAX-1040.



More People Are Eligible for Health Coverage!

The following article is reprinted with modifications from the December 2002 *MAIN Update*. The *MAIN Update* can be viewed at <http://www.mejp.org/Update/6-4/toc.htm>.

MaineCare now covers more adults. During the 2001 Legislative Session, the Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods (MAIN) and the Maine Equal Justice Partners (MEJP), along with their partners in the Alliance for a Healthy Maine, worked together to pass this legislation. Achieving access to health care for childless adults was MAIN and MEJP's top priority — and it happened! Just about everyone with income below the poverty level is now eligible for full MaineCare Benefits. (Most legal immigrants qualify, although a few will not.)

As of October 1, 2002, you can get full MaineCare (which used to be known as Medicaid and Cub Care) health coverage if:

- You are age 21 through 64; **and**
- Have no children or your minor children are not living with you; **and**
- You are single and your monthly income is below \$739 **OR** you are married and living with your spouse and your combined monthly income is less than \$995; **and**
- You have assets below \$2,000 for an individual or \$3,000 for a couple and your savings, including savings in your retirement plan, are less than \$8,000 for an individual or \$12,000 for a couple. (Many assets, like your home and a car, do not count).

Until this MaineCare expansion, people had to fit into a specific "category" in order to be eligible for MaineCare. These categories include:

- ✓ Children (age 0-18),
- ✓ Their parents or caretaker relatives who live with them,
- ✓ 19-20 year olds,
- ✓ Pregnant women
- ✓ People who are disabled,

- ✓ People over 65,
- ✓ People with HIV (limited benefit), and
- ✓ Some women with breast or cervical cancer

[The above groups are eligible for MaineCare *even if their income is higher than the amount listed for the newly eligible above*. Income guidelines cut off eligibility at different levels depending on which group you fall in.]

As of October 1, 2002, even if you don't fit into one of these categories you will still be eligible if you meet the income and asset guidelines. This is why you may hear people refer to this expansion as providing full MaineCare benefits to "non-categorical" people.

Spread the Word!

Many people are now eligible for MaineCare for the first time. Close to 4,000 people who currently get food stamps should have just received a notice from the Department of Human Services (DHS) saying that, based on the information they gave DHS on their food stamp application, they are now eligible for MaineCare. But many other people are eligible, but don't know they can apply.

Applications can be made by mail. No face-to-face interview is required. **Within 45 days of the application for MaineCare, DHS must provide applicants with a decision either granting or denying MaineCare, or issue a temporary MaineCare card until a decision is made.**

DHS should process an application no matter which MaineCare application people use, but the application with red and black print (for seniors and people with disabilities) is specifically geared for the new "non-categorical" applicants.

MaineCare applications are available at:

- ✓ any office of the Maine Department of Human Services
- ✓ by calling MaineCare Member Services at 1-800-977-6740 (TTY/TDD: 1800-977-6741)

If you will be in contact with a large number of potential applicants you can order a full box of applications from the DHS supply room by faxing your request to **626-5555** (include your mailing address and specify which application you want).

If you hear of people being discouraged from applying or being turned down for MaineCare when you believe they may be eligible, please call:

Covering Kids and Families Helpline
(1-800-965-7476)





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Executive Director of PTLA: Nan Heald, Esq.
Native American Unit:
Directing Attorney: Eric Nelson, Esq.
Staff Attorneys: Judith Plano, Esq.
 Mike Guare, Esq.
 Danny Mills
Paralegal
Editor: Cushing Pagon Samp

Questions about MaineCare?

If you are thinking about applying for MaineCare (formerly Medicaid and Cub Care) and need an application, have a question about how to fill the application out, or want to know more about your rights, there are two hotlines to call. Both take calls weekdays during regular business hours.

The toll-free number for
everyone who is 60 or younger is
1-800-965-7476

This is the number for the Covering Kids and Families
 Helpline at Consumers for Affordable Health Care
 (CAHC).

The toll-free number to call if you are
60 or older, or if you are disabled, and have a
MaineCare question, is
1-800-750-5353

This is the number for the hotline at Legal Services for
 the Elderly (LSE).



We Want To Hear From You!

If you have comments, articles or ideas on
 how this Newsletter can be helpful to you, please
 let us know.

Please send articles or letters to:
 Wabanaki Legal News, Pine Tree Legal Assistance,
 Coe Building, 61 Main Street, Room 41, Bangor, ME
 04401. Or you can send e-mail to csamp@ptla.org.

The articles in this paper are meant to give
 information. **NOT to give legal advice.** No one
 should interpret any law without the help of an
 attorney who has been told all the facts.



INDEX of COMMUNITY RESOURCES



CRISIS

(available 24 hours a day)



◆ Child Abuse/Neglect	1-800-452-1999
◆ Adult Abuse/Neglect	1-800-624-8404
◆ Domestic Violence:	
Houlton Band of Maliseets	532-6401
Pleasant Point	853-2613
Penobscot County	1-800-863-9909
Aroostook County	1-800-439-2323
Washington County	1-888-604-8692
◆ Infoline Emergency Social Services Referral:	1-800-204-2803
◆ Mental Crisis Hotline:	1-888-568-1112
◆ Poison Control Center:	1-800-442-6305
◆ Rape Crisis:	
Penobscot County	1-800-310-0000
Aroostook County	1-800-550-3304
Washington County	1-800-228-2470
◆ Youth Crisis Stabilization:	1-800-499-9130



HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE

The Federal Fuel Assistance Program administered by the Maine State Housing Authority gives fuel assistance money to states to distribute to residents who need help with fuel bills. To find out if you qualify, call your nearest Community Action Agency or the Maine State Housing Authority (1-800-452-4668). The TTY number is 1-800-452-4603.

Website: <http://www.mainehousing.org/homerepair.html>

The following Community Action Programs offer emergency fuel assistance (LIHEAP) in your area:

Aroostook County	768-3053 or 1-800-585-3053
Washington/Hancock Counties	1-800-828-7544
Penquis/Bangor	973-3630

If you can't pay your heating bill, check to see if you can get onto a payment plan. Your electric utility offers special payment plans for low income customers during the winter.



LEGAL SERVICES (Other than Pine Tree):



Maine Lawyer Referral and Information Service:

For a \$20.00 fee, you can be referred to a lawyer in your area for a one half-hour consultation or review of your paperwork.

Telephone: 207-622-1460 or 1-800-860-1460

Website: http://www.mainebar.org/lris_main.asp



Tel-Law:

Tel-Law has a number of different recorded messages to answer your basic questions about the law. It operates 24 hours a day. There is no fee other than the fact that it is a toll call outside the Augusta calling area.

Telephone: **207-622-1470**

Website: http://www.mainebar.org/lris_tellaw.asp



Volunteer Lawyers Project:

If you meet the Pine Tree eligibility requirements, the Volunteer Lawyer's Project can give you legal advice or informational materials for free, or will refer you to a private lawyer who may handle your case without charge. Normal intake hours are M-Th 8:45-12:00 & 1:00-4:00 & Fr 8:45-12:00.

Telephone: **207-774-4348 or 1-800-442-4293**

Website: <http://www.vlp.org/>



Legal Services for the Elderly:

If you are age 60 or over, Legal Services for the Elderly can give you free legal advice or limited representation.

Telephone: **1-800-750-5353 or 207-623-1797**

Website: <http://www.maineelse.org/>



Penquis Law Project:

This group gives legal representation to low and moderate income residents of Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties in the following kinds of cases: Protection From Abuse, Divorce and Separation, Child Support Enforcement, Alimony, Parental Rights and Responsibilities, Wills, and Powers of Attorney. The fee depends on several factors, including your annual income and the complexity of your case.

Telephone: **207-973-3671**

Website: <http://www.penquiscap.org/penquis.nsf/webpages/Law+Project>



University of Maine Student Legal Services:

If you are an undergraduate student at the University of Maine at Orono, you can get free or reduced cost civil legal services.

Telephone: **207-581-1789**

Website: <http://www.ume.maine.edu/~sgov/legal/welcome.html>



Chief Advocate, Department of Corrections:

The Advocate refers civil cases of inmates of the State correctional system, including the Maine State Prison and Maine Correctional Center, to attorneys under contract with the Department of Corrections. This office also gives paralegal and advocacy services for Maine State Prison inmates and works to resolve complaints informally.

Telephone: **207-287-4393**



Patient Advocate, Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services:

The Advocate refers civil cases of patients at state mental institutions or clients of the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services to attorneys under contract with the Department.

Telephone:

Penobscot and Washington Counties:

207-941-4180

Aroostock County:

207-554-2132



SOCIAL SECURITY (State-wide)

1-800-772-1213

Website: <http://s3abaca.ssa.gov/pro/foi/home.html>

Bangor Area

990-4530

Presque Isle Area

764-3771



DISCRIMINATION:

Housing Discrimination

1-800-827-5005

Website: <http://www.hud.gov/complaints/housediscrim.cfm>

Maine Human Rights Commission

624-6050

Website: <http://www.state.me.us/mhrc/index.shtml>

ME Civil Liberties Union

774-5444

Website: <http://www.mclu.org/>



DISABILITIES:

Disability Rights Center

1-800-452-1948

Website: <http://www.drcme.org/>



CONSUMER RESOURCES:

Consumer Mediation Service:

The Attorney General's Office gives this service free of charge. If you want to file a consumer complaint against a business call between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. weekdays. Or write to: Attorney General's Consumer Information and Mediation Service, 6 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.

Telephone: **626-8849**

Website: <http://www.state.me.us/ag/consumer/mediation.html>

Lemon Law Arbitration:

If you buy a car that has serious defects, the Attorney General's Lemon Law Arbitration Program can help you.

Telephone: **626-8848**

Website: <http://www.state.me.us/ag/consumer/lemonlaw.html>

Utility Complaints:

The Consumer Assistance Division of the Maine Public Utilities Commission can help you settle problems with any utility in the State.

Telephone: **1-800-452-4699**

Website: <http://www.state.me.us/mpuc/CAD/cad.htm>

Low Income Telephone Service Help:

If you qualify for Food Stamps, Medicaid, TANF, SSI or Fuel Assistance, call your local telephone company to see if you qualify for a reduction on your monthly telephone bill.

Employment/Labor Information:

Career Centers: (Website: <http://www.mainecareercenter.com/>)

Bangor **561-4050 or 1-888-828-0568**

Calais **454-7551 or 1-800-543-0303**

Houlton **532-5300 or 1-800-691-0033**

Machias **255-1900 or 1-800-292-8929**

Presque Isle **760-6300 or 1-800-635-0357**

State Bureau of Labor Standards **624-6400**

(wage or child labor complaints)

Website: <http://www.state.me.us/labor/bls/wagehour.htm>

US Dept. of Labor (Wage and Hour Division)

1-866-

Website: <http://dol.gov/esa/whd/> toll-free number: **487-9243**

Housing:

Maine State Housing Authority

1-800-452-4668

Website: <http://www.mainehousing.org/>

Insurance:

Bureau of Insurance

624-8475

or 1-800-300-5000

Website: http://www.state.me.us/pfr/ins/ins_index.htm



✧ Mobile Homes:

Manufactured Housing Board 624-8633
Website: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/mhs/mhssaa.cfm>

Manufactured Housing Association 623-2204
(mediation for mobile home residents) or 1-800-698-3335

Maine State Housing Authority 1-800-452-4668
(if renting a mobile home) TTY 1-800-452-4603

Website: <http://www.mainehousing.org/1stbuyer.html>

US Department of Housing and Urban Development 1-800-347-3735
(Manufactured Housing and construction standards)



COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (CAPS):

These agencies give information, outreach, job training, educational programs, day care, housing information and referral, fuel/energy assistance, insulation and furnace repair, surplus food, transportation and Emergency Crisis Intervention Program benefits. Not all services are given by all agencies.



Aroostook County Action Program

771 Main St. 91 Military St.
Presque Isle, ME 04769 Houlton, ME 04730
1-800-432-7881 532-9536
or 764-3721

Website: <http://acap-me.org/>

Penquis Community Action Program

262 Harlow Street,
Bangor, ME 04401
973-3500
Website:
<http://www.penquiscap.org/>



Washington-Hancock Community Agency

2 Maple Street
PO Box 280
Milbridge, ME 04658-0280
546-7544
Website:
<http://www.whacap.org/>

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT and AGENCIES

◆ Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians 764-1972

◆ Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians 532-4273

Website: <http://www.maliseets.com/> (In State) 1-800-564-8524
(Out of State) 1-800-545-8524

◆ Penobscot Indian Nation 827-7776

Website: <http://www.penobscotnation.org/>

◆ Passamaquoddy Tribe Indian Township 796-2301

Website: <http://www.peopleofthedawn.com/>

Pleasant Point 853-2600

Website: <http://www.wabanaki.com/>



PENOBSCOT TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

Court Administrator (George Tomer) 827-5639

Clerk of Courts 827-5639

Assistant Clerk of Courts (Sheila Sapiel) 827-5639

Tribal Prosecutor (C. Peter Bos) 827-5639

Probation Officer (George Tomer) 827-5639

Regular Sessions: First Wednesday of the month.

Special Sessions as needed.



PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

◆ Indian Township Division:

Clerk of Courts (Wanda Doten) 796-5600

Probation Officer (Dana Newell) 796-7929

◆ Pleasant Point Division:

Clerk of Courts (Dorothy A. Barnes) 853-2600, ext 252

Probation Officer (Edward J. Nicholas) 853-2600, ext 249

Regular Sessions: One Friday per month at each division. Special Sessions as needed.



OTHER TRIBAL AGENCIES

◆ Tribal Governors Council 941-6568

◆ Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission 622-4815



HEALTH SERVICES

◆ Penobscot Indian Health Center 827-6101

◆ Maliseet Health Center 532-2240

◆ Micmac Health Center 764-6968

or 764-7219

◆ Pleasant Point Health Center 853-0644

Emergency Services 853-2551

Website: or 853-4811

<http://www.wabanaki.com/Tribe/depts/Health/Health.htm>

◆ Indian Township Health Center 796-2321



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Native American Services:

◆ Pleasant Point: 853-2600, ext 250
(office number)

Hotline: 853-2613

Or call the Tribal Police: 853-2551

◆ Houlton Band of Maliseets:

During Office Hours (M-F 8-4): 532-6401

After hours: 694-1353

Or call the Houlton Police: 532-2287

Other Domestic Violence Services:

Penobscot County 947-0496

Spruce Run 1-800-863-9909

Washington County

Peaceful Choices 1-888-604-8692

(Machias Hotline) 255-4785

Website:

<http://www2.whacap.org/services/peaceful-choices.shtml>

Aroostook County

Battered Women's Project 1-800-439-2323



MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Wabanaki Mental Health Association, NPC 990-0605

or 990-4346 or 941-8964

Fax#: 990-4784



HELPFUL NATIVE AMERICAN WEB SITES

Directory of Indian Legal Services Programs in the US:

<http://www.judicare.org/nails.html>

Native Web: <http://www.nativeweb.org/NativeTech/Nipmuc/>

Pine Tree Legal Assistance: <http://www.ptla.org>

Index of Native American Resources on the Internet:

<http://www.hanksville.org/NAresources/>

Native Links: <http://www.johnco.com/native/>

Native Sense: <http://www.nativesense.com/>

Aboriginal Links:

<http://www.bloorstreet.com/300block/aborcan.htm>

Free Indian News: <http://www.freeindiannews.com/>

American Indian Internet Resources:

<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Congress/5156/nativeresources.html>