

LASNEM Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program

May 2021



2021 Pro-Bono At A Glance

Evictions During COVID-19: What all Attorneys Need to Know Now

LASNEM Senior Staff Attorney, Gwen Updegraff

Law Library Resources for Pro Bono Attorneys

Remote Access to Resources

COVID-19 Aid and Programs

RentHelpMN and Emergency Broadband Benefit

Upcoming CLE Opportunities

2021 LASNEM Pro Bono At A Glance

LASNEM Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program

APRIL 2021

50+

OVER 50 PAI CASES CLOSED!

APRIL 2021

103

PAI VOLUNTEER HOURS!

2021

30%

INCREASE IN PAI CASES PLACED

2021

50%

INCREASE IN REQUESTS FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE



Thank You!

Residential Evictions During COVID-19

Gwen Updegraff, LASNEM Senior Staff Attorney, explains what every attorney should know about residential evictions during COVID-19. This article is not a primer on landlord-tenant law; it is intended to inform an immediate response to a client seeking help with residential eviction. [Read more.](#)



May 4, 2021

Residential Evictions during COVID-19

By Gwen Updegraff, LASNEM Senior Staff Attorney

This article is not a primer on landlord tenant law; it is intended to inform an immediate response to a client seeking help with residential eviction.

The residential eviction defense landscape has changed since March of 2020. Federal, State, and local governments have created protections designed to keep tenants housed during the pandemic. Some District Courts have also changed their procedures.

COVID related tenant protections:

Here are the highlights: Governor Walz has extended the COVID emergency to June 14, 2021. He may or may not continue to extend the emergency after that. During the COVID emergency, landlords may not evict, or issue lease termination notices to their tenants. [Executive Order 20-79](#). The exceptions to the moratorium are:

The tenant:

- a. Seriously endangers the safety of other residents;
- b. Violates [Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 504B.171, subdivision 1](#) (controlled substances, prostitution, unlawful use or possession of a firearm, stolen property or property obtained by robbery, and acts under Minn. Stat. § 504B.206, subdivision 1, paragraph (a) (domestic abuse, criminal sexual conduct, and harassment));
- d. Materially violates a residential lease by the following actions on the premises, including the common area and the curtilage of the premises:
 - i. Seriously endangers the safety of others; or
 - ii. Significantly damages property.

Nonpayment of rent is not an exception.

The landlord may also issue a notice of termination of tenancy because of the need to move the property owner or property owner's family member(s) into the property, and where the property owner or property owner's family member(s) move into the property within 7 days after it is vacated by the tenant.

The Executive order requires **a pre-eviction written 7 day notice:**

6. All property owners, mortgage holders, or other persons seeking possession on grounds permitted by this Executive Order must provide a written notice of intent to file an eviction action to the tenant at least 7 days prior to filing the action, or the specified notice period included in the lease, whichever is longer.

Law Library Resources for Pro Bono Attorneys

Public Law Library Services during the Pandemic—Remote Access to Resources

Public law libraries are eager to assist attorneys who volunteer their time to assist those in need. Library support may involve access to helpful legal research resources, especially for the attorney who takes pro bono clients with issues outside the attorney's practice area. Find the full list [here](#).

Resources for Attorneys

Mental Health and Well-Being

- COVID-19 and Well-Being - Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers
- Mental Health Resources for the Legal Profession During COVID-19 - American Bar Association

COVID-19 Resources

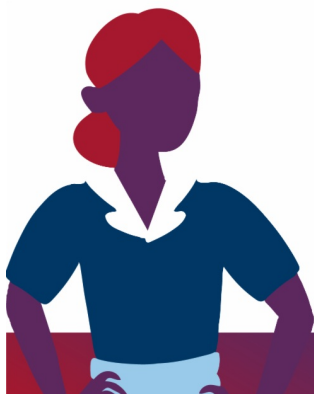
- Lexis Practice Advisor Coronavirus Resource Kit
- Thomson Reuters Practical Law Global Coronavirus Toolkit
- Bloomberg Law Coronavirus Outbreak Resources
- Wolters Kluwer Cheetah COVID-19 State & Federal Compare Smart Chart
- Fastcase COVID-19 Resources
- Minnesota State Bar Association COVID-19 Resources
- Resources for Lawyers & Law Firms - American Bar Association
- Coronavirus COVID-19 Resource Center - Pub K Public Contracts

Technology and Law Office Management

- Free Products and Resources for Legal Professionals During Coronavirus Crisis - LawSites
- Order Establishing Temporary Exception to Rule 6 (D) of the Rules of the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education
- Remote Online Notary Public - Minn. Stat. § 358.645
- COVID-19 Update: Practical Guide to Electronic Signatures - National Law Review
- Re-Opening Your Law Firm: There's a Bar Association Guide for That! - LLRX



COVID-19 Current Programs and Resources



**“We all need
a little support
sometimes.”**

GET RENTHELP MN TODAY

Visit renthelpmn.org or call 211

COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance 

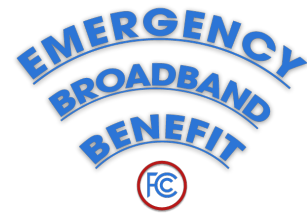
RentHelpMN

COVID 19 Emergency Rental Assistance is available to Minnesotans struggling to pay their rent and utility bills because of the pandemic. People can apply today at renthelpmn.org or call **211** with questions.

Emergency Broadband Benefit

The **Emergency Broadband Benefit** will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a

one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.



Upcoming CLE Opportunities

An Introduction To Prosecutor-Led Expungement Of Criminal Records



Did you know that under Minnesota law a prosecutor can initiate expungement or sealing of a defendant's criminal records? Did you know that if a prosecutor initiates an expungement action, there will be no court hearing and the defendant need not pay a court filing fee?

This CLE will highlight current efforts that are being made throughout Minnesota by prosecuting authorities to make it easier for defendants to expunge or seal their criminal records, which often present barriers to securing employment and rental housing.

This CLE will also present an overview of the prosecutor-led expungement process and what information defendants need to provide to a prosecutor's office when seeking to engage in this process. Presenter: Nilushi S. Ranaweera, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Minnesota Attorney General. [Click here to register for free!](#)

ONLINE

Thursday, May 20, 2021

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM



Reducing Barriers to Justice- Civil Legal Services in Minnesota

Civil legal service programs in our state play an essential role in meeting the basic legal needs of Minnesotans of limited means, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Civil legal services responded quickly to the pandemic, implementing responsive programming and making technological improvements with CARES Act funding. Learn more about the innovative programs and services that help ensure civil justice in the lives of Minnesotans.

ONLINE

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM



Elimination of Bias: Legal Responders – The Pandemic and Racial Equity

2020 was a year that presented a host of new challenges and highlighted several existing ones within the civil legal system in Minnesota. Our panelists will share how their organizations have responded to these challenges thus far, and how we all can find opportunities to promote equal justice in our communities.

ONLINE

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM



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