



PRESS RELEASE
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Cancer Patients in Hudson Valley to Get Legal Help and Support Under New Funding

Barbara Finkelstein, Esq., Executive Director of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV), announced today that an \$83,333 grant from the Department of Health of the State of New York has been awarded to LSHV. The grant will create a unit to provide free civil legal services, as well as social services to low-income individuals with cancer and their families in the Hudson Valley. The funds will permit LSHV to hire one staff attorney and subcontract funds to the Cancer Support Team, a non-profit home care program based in Mamaroneck, which will provide social and support services to clients. LSHV's headquarters are located in White Plains at 4 Cromwell Place. LSHV provides free legal civil services to lower income individuals and families in Westchester, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties. It helps local residents resolve non-criminal, but urgent legal problems.

Robert Hermann, President of the LSHV Board of Directors, said, "We are grateful for the opportunity to serve this group that so badly needs all the help it can get in going through tough, bewildering and sometimes overwhelming circumstances."

For almost 40 years, the attorneys at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley have been assisting people of low-income with high quality, free, civil legal services. LSHV, headquartered in White Plains, N.Y., provides legal services in the areas of domestic violence, children's advocacy, elder law, housing, disabled rights and benefits. LSHV is a \$6 million dollar agency with 63 staff people, including 30 attorneys. LSHV has been able to help through government funding, and private donations from corporations, law firms, and individual attorneys. LSHV also has an active Pro Bono program, where 300 attorneys volunteer their time to work on cases.

Barbara Finkelstein stated, "This is a unique partnership, combining legal services and social services to cancer patients, and we anticipate it will be very beneficial to the clients who need the services. We look forward to working with the Cancer Support Team. Some of the essential services we will be providing are permanency planning, wills preparation, access to health care services, settlement of insurance disputes, benefits entitlement, preparation of living wills, health care proxies, and child custody issues. In addition, a myriad of social and support services will be available such as care management, educational services counseling and bereavement services."