

AMERICAN SAMOA LEGAL AID, INC.
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ASLA PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT (PAI) PROGRAM

ASLA has adopted a Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program. Low-income residents of American Samoa who are eligible under ASLA's citizenship, financial and Priorities guidelines can be referred to private attorneys who have entered into agreements with ASLA to accept certain cases (e.g. uncontested divorces) at a reduced fee paid by ASLA. Filing, litigation etc. fees will have a cap agreed to by both ASLA and the PAI attorney.

For Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) cases, the ASLA Office at Pago Pago will handle intake, screening and eligibility determination on all referred clients. Since most of the cases referred to PAI attorneys involve uncontested divorces, a low income resident seeking legal assistance with an uncontested divorce matter will be given an Uncontested Divorce Questionnaire for both parties to answer. Once a PAI referral has been made, ASLA will provide to the PAI client the name, contact information and office location for the PAI attorney. ASLA will also provide a PAI case file to the PAI attorney to start the case. It is the PAI client's responsibility to provide truthful information, documents that may be needed later and cooperate with the PAI attorney.

If the PAI client has any concerns with the manner in which the PAI attorneys is handling his/her case, the PAI client should communicate those concerns to ASLA's PAI Coordinator at the ASLA Office.

When a PAI case is completed or if for a good reason the PAI attorney determines that he/she can no longer handle the PAI case, the PAI case will be referred back to ASLA. The PAI client will be asked to complete a brief Client Satisfaction Survey at the conclusion of a PAI attorney's handling of his/her case. If client requires no further legal assistance by a PAI attorney or ASLA, the PAI Coordinator will close the PAI case file. PAI attorneys are recognized during the Bar's Annual Meeting.