



## Real Life Success Stories from CVLAS Clients Served

**Public Benefits**—Ty, a 42 yr old mother of two, stopped working as a home health aide when her patient entered hospice and died. She took another job as a school cafeteria worker earning a lower pay rate. Paperwork was faxed to the Department of Social Services (DSS) with the patient’s obituary and a letter from the decedent’s daughter confirming this. Due to agency error, it was overlooked and our client went without Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for 2 months. Then, a CVLAS attorney intervened to challenge the decision, to correct the calculation based on Ty’s lower income increasing her monthly benefit and secured \$1022 in back SNAP payments. CVLAS changed Ty’s story allowing a mother who served lunch to other children to be able to feed her own.

**Housing**—Sara, a single mother, walked into CVLAS’s Housing Outreach office at the Richmond Genera District Court with 48 hours left on her 72 hour notice of eviction. The CVLAS attorney discovered that the landlord had acquired an order for possession 10 months earlier when the client lost her job and fell behind on her rent. However, the client had been paying her rent regularly since then. The landlord had given her rent receipts but did not give her notice that he was accepting the rent “with reservation” and was not waiving or giving up his right to evict her. The CVLAS attorney filed a motion to quash the eviction and was able to get on the court’s docket the next day. With only hours to spare, the court granted the motion to quash and Sara kept her home.

**Consumer Auto Fraud**—Mae, a mother of 5 children, paid \$4,600 on December 16th 2018 for a 2009 minivan. She purchased the vehicle “As Is”. The owner had represented that the vehicle was reliable and would be suitable for the family’s planned trip to Florida; but when the client left the lot, the van caught fire within 12 miles of the dealership. The Owner guessed that the fire might be related to the brakes he had allegedly fixed as he brought out new calipers when he came to look at the vehicle. Client asked the owner for a refund but it wasn’t until CVLAS’s Pro Bono Triage attorney intervened and successfully established that there were defects in the installment sales contract that a full refund of the \$4600 purchase price was secured.

These are just a few of the more than 3500 cases handled by CVLAS attorneys and Pro Bono volunteers every year.

**CVLAS** provides free civil legal assistance to low-income individuals in the cities of Richmond, Petersburg, Hopewell, Colonial Heights and Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Goochland, Greene, Hanover, Henrico, Louisa, Nelson, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George and Surry.

Generally, households have gross income below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines\*. Though households with income up to 200% of federal poverty may be accepted in certain situations.

Individuals 60 or older may receive legal advice without regard to their finances.

Applicants for service must also meet citizenship requirements.

While our services are free, clients may have to pay for litigation expenses such as court fees, expert witness costs, etc.

CVLAS does not handle criminal, traffic, personal injury, malpractice, property damage or cases that may generate attorney’s fees where a lawyer could obtain a fee from the other side or from recovery.



Since 1971, CVLAS has defended the rights of those who cannot defend themselves, and has a long history of meeting the legal needs of our most vulnerable populations.

*\*CVLAS 2020 guideline available upon request*



# Fighting for those who can’t fight for themselves



## OUR LAW OFFICES

**Richmond**  
101 W. Broad Street, Suite 101  
Richmond, VA 23220  
(804) 648-1012  
(800) 868-1012

**Petersburg**  
229 N. Sycamore Street  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
(804) 862-1100  
(800) 868-1012

**Charlottesville**  
The C.B. Holt Rock House  
1010 Preston Avenue  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
(434) 296-8851  
(800) 390-9983

[www.cvlas.org](http://www.cvlas.org)



## WHO WE ARE

The true measure of a society is how we treat the elderly, our children, the disabled, and the poor.

### Our story

Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS) is a community of lawyers who provide free civil legal services to low-income individuals in crisis. We believe in the enormous power of lawyers to make a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and communities. Through the compassionate and crucial work of our dedicated attorneys, CVLAS ensures justice is not out of reach for those who cannot afford it and who are too often left behind.

Low income or elderly people who need assistance in civil (non-criminal) matters are provided advice or representation by staff attorneys and also by volunteer private attorneys. CVLAS has offices in Richmond, Petersburg, and Charlottesville serving five independent cities and fifteen counties.

Legal Services are **FREE** to all who qualify. Qualification for CVLAS services is based on several factors. Two of the most essential are: residence in our service area (or a case arising within our service area) and financial eligibility.



## WHAT WE DO

### Consumer Law

- Bankruptcy & garnishment protection
- Debt collection defenses
- Payday, car title and predatory loans
- Repossessions

### Elder Law

- Advance directives & Powers of Attorney
- Guardianships/Conservatorships
- Wills

### Employment Law

- Unemployment compensation
- Wrongful discharge

### Family Law

- Avoiding or reversing child abuse/neglect findings
- Domestic violence
- Uncontested no-fault divorce

### Health Law

- Medicaid and Medicare
- Nursing home care and discharges

### Housing Law

- Eviction defense
- Foreclosure prevention
- Housing voucher problems
- Lockouts, utility cutoffs, and self-help evictions
- Repairs

### Public Benefits

- SNAP benefits (formerly Food Stamps)
- TANF benefits for needy families

## HOW TO GET HELP

At this time there are 2 methods of contacting us to begin the intake process: via phone call or an online application. Applicants will then be screened for income and resource eligibility.

### Telephone intake days & hours

**Monday—Friday • 9am—5pm**  
**(804) 200-6046 or (800) 868-1012**

### Online application

Apply online any time at our website:  
**[www.cvlas.org](http://www.cvlas.org)** and click on “Apply for Help Online”

We will contact you within 48 hours during regular business hours.

## VIRGINIA FARMWORKERS PROGRAM

The Virginia Farmworkers Program is a part of the services CVLAS offers to the community. Through this program we offer legal assistance to migrant farmworkers working in Virginia under the H-2A Visa program, as well as migrant farmworkers who are legal residents or citizens of the US. We represent clients with work related legal issues, such as unpaid wages and violations of working and migrant housing conditions. For more information about this program or if you are a farmworker in need of legal assistance please contact Christianne Queiroz, the Program Director and attorney at (434) 390-4554 or [christianne@cvlas.org](mailto:christianne@cvlas.org).

