

Neil Gillespie

From: "Sarah K Halsell" <Halsellsk@elderaffairs.org>
To: <neilgillespie@mfi.net>
Cc: "DOEA Public Records" <doeapublicrecords@elderaffairs.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 3:33 PM
Subject: FW: Public record request; Request for public information - override

Dear Mr. Gillespie,

Thank you for your request for information and public records relating to the provision of legal services through the Older Americans Act (OAA). Title IIIB of the OAA provides funding to states for legal services. In Florida, this funding is distributed by the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) through contract to the eleven Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs). The ADRCs contract with legal aid programs at the local level. OAA-funded legal programs provide legal services throughout Florida for seniors 60 years of age and older. Given the limited resources available, legal aid programs cannot provide services to every senior who requests assistance. Therefore, it is important these programs target services to those seniors with the greatest economic and social need and set priorities for legal assistance, as required by the OAA.

General information about legal services available through the DOEA under OAA Title IIIB are located in the Department's Program and Services Handbook, Appendix A: Service Descriptions and Standards, pages A-191 - A-195. The link is as follows: <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/notices/June15/Appendix%20A%20Service%20Descriptions%20and%20Standards.pdf>

To access OAA Title IIIB legal services, an individual may contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) which serves the area of the state where the individual is located, or contact the Elder Helpline for referral. A map of the ADRCs is available on the DOEA website at <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/arc.php>. The telephone number for the Elder Help Line is 1-800-963-5337. In Hillsborough county, the OAA-funded legal provider is Bay Area Legal Services. Information about applying for help at Bay Area can be found on their website at <https://www.bals.org/how-to-apply>.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,
Sarah Halsell

Sarah Halsell, J.D.
State Legal Services Developer
Florida Department of Elder Affairs
4040 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-7000
(850) 414-2389