

Do not forget



Always remember that the lawyers of Free Legal Aid are all qualified and legally competent advocates, **who do not work for the Greek state but for you and your own interests.**



Free Legal Aid is not only addressed to people in legal defence (accused, defendants) but also to people who wish to assert any of their rights they feel have been violated, whether a criminal offense has been committed against them, or they are victims of an accident (traffic, work or any other), or as individuals they feel that their interests have been harmed (unpaid work, illegal eviction from a rented house or anything else).



The Greek criminal legislation

stipulates that for those acts that are classified as felonies, or that carry a minimum of three years imprisonment or are tried by the Trial Chamber of the Plenary Court, the appointment of a free counsel is mandatory for the accused, regardless of his/her financial situation or legal documents, if he/she either does not have the resources to choose a free counsel or wishes to exercise his/her right to a free counsel. In case you are accused of such a serious criminal offence you can: a) either ask the authorities in any way to appoint a free lawyer to you (if you are not in custody you will request it to the Public Prosecutor residing in any Courthouse, if you are in custody you will request it from the Director of the prison where you are detained), from the first moment you are declared an accused person, i.e. even during the interrogation, before you are brought before the court; b) or wait to be appointed a lawyer by the President of the court that will hear your case.



**GREEK
COUNCIL
FOR
REFUGEES**

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GREEK
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Information leaflet on **Free Legal Aid**





Do you need a lawyer and lack the financial means necessary to hire a lawyer of your own choice?



According to Greek law, the Greek State is obliged to appoint a free lawyer to represent you, provided that you have submitted the necessary documents requested by the respective court offices, depending on your specific case:



1

Do you have a pending case in the Civil (divorce, custody of minor children, employment issue, house lease, etc.) **or Criminal** (complaint for domestic violence, theft, drugs, forgery, etc.) **Courts?**

If you live in Athens:

Contact the Athens Court of First Instance,

6 Evelpidon Street, Building 5 (1st floor)

telephone 213 215 5872 and in particular:

- Every Monday / Wednesday / Friday, 9.00 am-12.00 pm at Building 4, office 207, 2nd floor (telephone 213 215 5837).
- Every Tuesday and Thursday only for urgent cases, from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in Building 5, office 102

If you live in Thessaloniki:

Contact the Court of First Instance of Thessaloniki,

5, 26th October Street, 2nd floor, office 214

(telephone 231 331 1210) every day from Monday to Friday,

9.00 am to 1.00 pm

2

Do you have a case before the Administrative Courts (application for annulment, application for suspension of an asylum decision, fine, etc.)?

If you live in Athens:

Contact the Athens Administrative Court of First Instance,

85 Louizis Riankour Street, ground floor, Aliens Office (office 105),

every day from Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 13.30 pm

(telephone 210 696 23 75)

If you live in Thessaloniki:

Contact the Court of First Instance of Thessaloniki,

2 Fragon Street, 2nd floor, office 232 (telephone 2310 594 268)

every day from Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm.

Do not forget



Almost all legal actions in Greece must be taken within certain deadlines, many of which are only a few days long. For this reason, **we strongly urge you to contact Legal Aid as soon as you become aware** of the proceedings that are being initiated against you or that you wish to initiate.



All of the offices above, during public service hours and days, are **obliged to provide you with a form containing the documents required to qualify for Free Legal Aid** (which mainly concern proof of your financial situation and residence). Free legal representation will be appointed to you only once you have submitted the necessary documents, along with your application, and they have followingly been approved by the relevant Court of First Instance.



It is extremely important that you indicate in your application a telephone number (not a WhatsApp), on which the authorities can actually reach you when they call you, both to inform you of the progress of your application and for the lawyer appointed in your case to contact you subsequently.



None of the offices mentioned above offer interpretation in other languages, communication is held only in Greek. However unreasonable or unfair this may seem to you, do not allow it to discourage you. Above all, the Greek state is obligated to follow the law, so **no one can deny you service on the grounds of a language barrier**. Even if you show up with a friend who speaks Greek or use an internet tool to communicate, the authorities must receive and evaluate your request.