

Our Elder Law Project Keeps Communities Strong



LEGAL AID
SOCIETY
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Help Us Celebrate Older Americans Month

Each May, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living celebrates [Older Americans Month](#). At the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, **we believe all residents ages 60 and above who have been victims of abuse and exploitation by relatives, merchants, or others deserve legal advice and representation.**

?We are proud to report that in the past five years, we have successfully assisted over 3,400 elderly clients. Our [Elder Law Project](#) aims to enhance the quality of life, personal dignity, and right to self-determination for older PBC residents experiencing economic and social needs by addressing:

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- ? Abuse and Exploitation
- ? Housing Issues
- ? Health and Public Benefits
- ? Consumer Issues
- ? Estate Planning
- ? Veterans Advocacy
- ? General Guardianship



[Learn More](#)

Senior staff attorney for the Elder Law and Veterans Advocacy Projects, Melva Rozier, says her team is often an older resident's last line of defense against exploitation by family members and slumlords. In addition, many seniors face technical challenges and are unable to navigate the video chats, emails, and faxes that have become necessary with COVID-19 office closures.

Rozier says the most urgent need that elderly residents face is the lack of affordable housing and the exploitation of homelessness. Each week, our Helpline (option six at 1-800-403-9353) responds to 50-90+ calls just like these:



Tina's* Story

Tina, an elderly client, called us for help after learning she was about to lose her home due to \$3,000 in owed taxes. Despite her best efforts, Tina had been struggling to make ends meet due to unforeseen COVID-19 related expenses. Fortunately, through our Elders on the Edge Fund we were able to provide the necessary funding to keep her safe at home.*

Recently, we learned of 50 elderly residents who had been displaced from their senior home due to mold.



With no access to transportation and mounting hotel bills, the situation was dire. We quickly organized care packages, groceries, and funds while advocating for the senior home to cover their hotel fees and additional expenses - until all 50 residents could safely return to their home four months later.

Exploitation issues like these illustrate that more assistance is needed to protect our seniors. If you are interested in supporting the Elder Law Project, please consider [making a monetary donation](#) or [volunteering through our Pro Bono program](#).

[Donate Now](#)

Now more than ever, elderly residents in Palm Beach County need safe and stable environments in which to live.



**Working together, we can
ensure justice for all.**

**Name has been changed for privacy.*



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