



FEMA

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News Release

Free Legal Help Available for Those Affected by Cook Inlet Earthquake

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – A free legal aid hotline is now available to eligible Alaskans affected by the Nov. 30 earthquake in the Municipality of Anchorage, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Mat-Su Borough. The service allows callers to request the assistance of a lawyer to aid in disaster-related matters.

Alaskans affected by the disaster and facing legal issues who are unable to afford a lawyer may call the toll-free hotline **855-743-1001** Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or go to <https://www.alsc-law.org/>

Callers should leave a message and the call will be returned within 24 to 48 hours. Alaskans can also get disaster assistance by visiting a disaster recovery center or to locate a disaster recovery center, applicants can visit: www.fema.gov/disaster-recovery-centers.

The type of legal assistance available includes:

- Replacement of identification documents or other important destroyed legal documents
- Assistance with life, medical, and property insurance claims
- Help with home repair contracts and contractors
- Assisting in consumer protection matters, remedies, and procedures
- Counseling on mortgage-foreclosure problems
- Counseling on landlord-tenant problems and
- Assistance with securing federal disaster assistance and other government benefits available to aid in disaster recovery.

The hotline is a partnership between the Alaska Bar Association, Alaska Legal Service Corporation, American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Callers should be aware that there are limitations on disaster legal services. For example, assistance is not available for cases that will produce a fee (those cases where attorneys are paid part of the settlement by a court). Such cases are referred to a local lawyer referral service.

People in other boroughs who need legal help may visit www.alsc-law.org/contact-us/.

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FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has faced discrimination, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362 (FEMA), voice/NP/711. Multilingual operators are available. TTY users may call 800-462-7585.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955. TTY users may also call 800-877-8339. Applicants may also email DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov or visit SBA at www.SBA.gov/disaster .