



UPDATE - April 16, 2020

Legal Services

Though our services have been modified due to stay-at-home orders, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you are a current client, or a new client calling with general immigration-related questions or seeking naturalization services, please feel free to contact our office by phone or email (psuhrbier@stjames-cathedral.org). We will be sure to respond to your inquiries within 1-2 business days.

Current legal services include:

- Preparing files and applications including on-going communication clients, reviewing A-files, working on FOIA requests and N-400 application packets,
- Responding to new calls from clients either looking for naturalization services, legal services referral information, or information regarding public benefits, unemployment insurance, and how these relate to the new public charge rule during the pandemic.
- Completing new client intakes by phone
- Participating in regional update meetings and presentations regarding COVID-19 resources for immigrant communities and new eligibility criteria for unemployment insurance
- Developing trainings for volunteer form fillers at regional citizenship clinics
- Prepping clients by phone for their N-400 interviews once USCIS reopens

Legal services that are currently on-hold:

- Certain complex FOIA requests and N-400 applications that cannot be completed without in-person appointments.

ESL and Citizenship Tutoring

We are encouraging and promoting remote tutoring at this time. Sayuko is happy to provide support to volunteers for working remotely with students. Please email her at ssetvik@stjames-cathedral.org with any questions or concerns.

Current tutoring services include:

- Match tutoring pairs virtually when we can find a common software or apps that work for everyone.
- Providing support to tutors via email or phone as needed.
- Researching and evaluating options for online training for tutors who have enrolled, but have not yet attended a training and haven't been matched.

Tutoring services that are currently on-hold:

- Intake and enrollment of new clients and tutors.

Elder Integration

Many of the immigrants in our Elder Integration program have limited internet access, and are more isolated than before. Staff are checking in with them by mail, e-mail and by telephone. In addition to providing a listening ear, staff are also doing the following:

- Assessing needs
- Providing connections to agencies and services
- Providing resources on the coronavirus pandemic, medicine and prescription deliveries, community support, and other topics
- Translation and interpretation into Russian and Ukrainian

Volunteer Recruitment

At this time, we are not actively recruiting new volunteers. People who had expressed an interest prior to the stay-at-home order are being followed up with, but we are currently unable to provide the necessary pre-service training. If you have questions, contact Caroline Okello at cokello@stjames-cathedral.org.

Community Activation

We are currently exploring ideas for how to engage people remotely who want to offer support through prayer, learn more about immigration issues, volunteer, and show solidarity with immigrants during these fearful and challenging times.