

LIMITATIONS ON ASSETS

In cases where the applicant has assets which exceed those set forth below, Northern Kentucky Volunteer Lawyers, Inc. will normally not provide representation. However, in unusual or extremely meritorious situations, the Director may grant waivers of this asset ceiling. Special consideration for waiver will be given to an applicant who is elderly, handicapped or a domestic violence matter. All applicants who are receiving governmental benefits for the poor will automatically be considered to have met the assets test and no further inquiry need be made regarding their access to assets.

Assets considered shall include all liquid and non-liquid assets of all persons who are resident members of a family unit, except that no assets of any member of the family unit or household will be included if the applicant does not have direct and unfettered access to those assets. Non-liquid assets shall not be considered as disqualifying an applicant from service unless they can become liquid within a time sufficient that a client could use the case proceeds to obtain legal service.

The applicant's residence shall not be used to disqualify the applicant unless applicant's share of equity value exceeds \$5000.00. The applicant may not own any other real estate except a burial plot.

Reasonable equity value in work related equipment which is essential to the employment of an applicant or member of a family unit, shall not be utilized to disqualify the applicant.

Other Possible Assets Excluded:

1. The applicant's household is permitted to own one motor vehicle, and additional automobiles if needed for employment, transportation to medical care, or for similar essential purposes.
2. The applicant's household is permitted to own ordinary household goods.
3. Disabled or handicapped applicants are permitted to own property necessary for their maintenance.

Assets of applicant and other resident family members should not exceed \$2000.00 and should not be in excess of family need. (Not counting exclusions).

ELIGIBILITY OF JUVENILES AND STUDENTS

- a. If the juvenile or student is not a dependent, regular eligibility of standards apply.
- b. If the juvenile is a dependent of the family, the eligibility of the juvenile depends on eligibility of parents. If the parents are eligible, so is the child.
- c. Students who are dependents are eligible if parents and students are both eligible.

CHANGE IN FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

If, during the course of representation, the client becomes financially ineligible, or if it becomes apparent to the attorney that the client has previously undisclosed assets or income which would make the client ineligible, the attorney should notify the Pro Bono Coordinator. The Pro Bono Coordinator will review the financial status of the client.

If the client's income or resources exceeds the eligibility guidelines, the client will be advised that she/he is no longer eligible for the pro bono services and the pro bono office must close its file. The client may contract with the volunteer for representation on a fee basis or may hire an attorney of his/her choice.

If the attorney withdraws from the case, she/he may do so in a manner that would comply with the Code of Professional Responsibility, taking care not to allow the client's rights to be prejudiced. The attorney should give reasonable notice of the withdrawal in writing to the client and the NKVL program.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Individuals must reside within Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Gallatin, Pendleton, Carroll, Grant and Owen counties of our jurisdiction in order to qualify for service from Northern Kentucky Volunteer Lawyers, Inc. This program may also serve otherwise eligible clients whose problems require resolution in the counties of our jurisdiction.

Residents of counties served by other legal aid or pro bono program will be referred to those programs.

