

FAQ

What is Free Legal Answers (“FLA”)?

Free Legal Answers is a virtual legal advice clinic that offers free legal advice to low income residents of Northern California. The legal advice will be specific to legal matters related COVID-19. The clinic is hosted by Legal Access Alameda, California Lawyers Association, and the American Bar Association.

How does FLA work?

Low income residents of Northern California post a request for legal advice and/or information and provide facts that will help the attorney answer legal questions related to COVID-19. Attorneys will then choose a question, draft an answer to the question, and send their draft to the FLA administrator. The FLA administrator will forward your draft to an expert attorney for review and if needed, editing. After attorneys receive the expert response, they should make the changes (if applicable) and send the answer to the client.

What is the role of the volunteers?

Volunteers are agreeing to provide legal representation through the Website on a pro bono basis. Volunteers must be licensed, in good standing, and authorized to give pro bono legal advice in the state of California. Attorneys eligible under that criteria will be authorized to use the system and to respond to the user’s request for legal advice and/or information.

Volunteers sign up for a week. During that week, volunteers will answer at least three (3) questions. Volunteers will send a draft answer to the FLA admin who will have the draft reviewed by an expert. When volunteers receive the expert’s response, they should make necessary changes before sending the answer to the client.

How do I sign-up?

First, go to <https://disasterlegalservicesca.org/flacalifornia> to complete the COVID-19 volunteer pledge. Second, watch Legal Access’ training videos. Third, log-on to ca.freelegalanswers.org to review the Attorney Use Agreement and create an account. Lastly, email the FLA admin to schedule yourself for a week to volunteer.

What if a question is related to a practice area that I lack experience?

You will only answer questions you choose to answer. If no attorney responds to a request after 30+ days, the request will be removed and an administrator will notify the user.

*To waive training requirements, for assistance signing up, or for more information, please contact: freelegalanswers@acbanet.org

