

§ 1638.1

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 2996g(e).

SOURCE: 62 FR 19424, Apr. 21, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1638.1 Purpose.

This part is designed to ensure that recipients and their employees do not solicit clients.

§ 1638.2 Definitions.

(a) *Communicate* or *communication* means to share information. Permissible forms of communication include, but are not limited to, sending information via mailings, text message, email, or other methods of voice or electronic communication.

(b) *In-person* means a face-to-face encounter, including virtual clinics or other encounters via videoconference.

(c) *Unsolicited advice* means advice to obtain counsel or take legal action given by a recipient or its employee to an individual who did not seek the advice and with whom the recipient does not have an attorney-client relationship.

[89 FR 25816, Apr. 12, 2024]

§ 1638.3 Prohibition.

(a) Recipients and their employees shall not represent a client as a result of in-person unsolicited advice.

(b) Recipients and their employees shall not refer to other recipients individuals to whom they have given in-person unsolicited advice.

[89 FR 25816, Apr. 12, 2024]

§ 1638.4 Permissible activities.

A recipient may:

(a) Communicate about legal rights and responsibilities or the recipient's services and intake procedures or provide the same information through community legal education activities. Recipients may engage in various activities including, but not limited to, outreach, public service announcements, maintaining an ongoing presence in a courthouse to provide advice, disseminating community legal education publications, and giving presentations to groups that request them.

(b) Communicate to parties in civil cases to notify them that a case has been filed against them; to inform them of upcoming court dates; to in-

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form them that counsel may be available to represent them; and to provide information about intake.

(c) Represent an otherwise eligible individual requesting legal assistance from the recipient as a result of a communication or information provided as described in paragraph (a) of this section, provided that the request has not resulted from in-person unsolicited advice.

(d) Represent or refer clients pursuant to a statutory or private ombudsman program that provides investigatory and referral services and/or legal assistance on behalf of persons who are unable to seek assistance on their own, including institutionalized individuals or individuals living with a physical or mental disability.

(e) Represent an individual with whom the recipient initiated contact over the phone or via an electronic platform so long as the communication provides only generic information that is not tailored to the individual or the specific facts of the individual's legal issues.

[89 FR 25816, Apr. 12, 2024]

§ 1638.5 Recipient policies.

Each recipient shall adopt written policies to implement the requirements of this part.

PART 1639—WELFARE REFORM

Sec.

1639.1 Purpose.

1639.2 Definitions.

1639.3 Prohibition.

1639.4 Permissible representation of eligible clients.

1639.5 Exceptions for public rulemaking and responding to requests with non-LSC funds.

1639.6 Recipient policies and procedures.

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 2996g(e); Pub. L. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009; Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321.

SOURCE: 62 FR 30766, June 5, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1639.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this rule is to ensure that LSC recipients do not initiate litigation involving, or challenge or participate in, efforts to reform a Federal or State welfare system. The rule also

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clarifies when recipients may engage in representation on behalf of an individual client seeking specific relief from a welfare agency and under what circumstances recipients may use funds from sources other than the Corporation to comment on public rulemaking or respond to requests from legislative or administrative officials involving a reform of a Federal or State welfare system.

§ 1639.2 Definitions.

An effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system includes all of the provisions, except for the Child Support Enforcement provisions of Title III, of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Personal Responsibility Act), 110 Stat. 2105 (1996), and subsequent legislation enacted by Congress or the States to implement, replace or modify key components of the provisions of the Personal Responsibility Act or by States to replace or modify key components of their General Assistance or similar means-tested programs conducted by States or by counties with State funding or under State mandates.

[67 FR 19343, Apr. 19, 2002]

§ 1639.3 Prohibition.

Except as provided in §§ 1639.4 and 1639.5, recipients may not initiate legal representation, or participate in any other way in litigation, lobbying or rulemaking, involving an effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system. Prohibited activities include participation in:

(a) Litigation challenging laws or regulations enacted as part of an effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system.

(b) Rulemaking involving proposals that are being considered to implement an effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system.

(c) Lobbying before legislative or administrative bodies undertaken directly or through grassroots efforts involving pending or proposed legislation that is part of an effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system.

§ 1639.4 Permissible representation of eligible clients.

Recipients may represent an individual eligible client who is seeking specific relief from a welfare agency.

[62 FR 30766, June 5, 1997, as amended at 67 FR 19343, Apr. 19, 2002]

§ 1639.5 Exceptions for public rulemaking and responding to requests with non-LSC funds.

Consistent with the provisions of 45 CFR 1612.6 (a) through (e), recipients may use non-LSC funds to comment in a public rulemaking proceeding or respond to a written request for information or testimony from a Federal, State or local agency, legislative body, or committee, or a member thereof, regarding an effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system.

§ 1639.6 Recipient policies and procedures.

Each recipient shall adopt written policies and procedures to guide its staff in complying with this part.

PART 1640—APPLICATION OF FEDERAL LAW TO LSC RECIPIENTS

Sec.

1640.1 Purpose.

1640.2 Applicable Federal laws.

1640.3 Contractual agreement.

1640.4 Violation of agreement.

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 2996e(g).

SOURCE: 80 FR 21656, Apr. 20, 2015, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1640.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to ensure that recipients use their LSC funds in accordance with Federal law related to the proper use of Federal funds. This part also provides notice to recipients of the consequences of a violation of such Federal laws by a recipient, its employees or board members.

§ 1640.2 Applicable federal laws.

(a) LSC will maintain an exhaustive list of applicable Federal laws relating to the proper use of Federal funds on its Web site and provide recipients with a link to the list in the contractual agreement. The list may be modified with the approval of the Corporation's