



# ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Providing FREE high-quality civil legal services to Alaskans since 1967

## FACT SHEET: SENIORS/ELDERS

### OVERVIEW

Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) is the only statewide provider addressing the civil legal needs of Alaska's growing senior population.

ALSC is committed to safeguarding the rights and dignity of Alaska's senior population. Our advocates are trained to resolve a wide range of legal issues faced by seniors with long-term solutions that prevent recurring problems. Our team assists seniors and their caregivers by helping them to access benefits that seniors are legally entitled to; protecting elders from financial exploitation, neglect, and abuse; and addressing unsafe and unstable living conditions.

Additionally, we assist seniors in planning for the future by drafting wills, advanced healthcare directives, and powers of attorney. These efforts save families financial and emotional hardship while providing a cost savings to the healthcare and court systems.



**Alaska has the nation's fastest-growing 65+ population per capita, with growth projected to continue.<sup>1</sup>**



**A statewide needs assessment identified protecting older Alaskans from financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect as a top justice priority.<sup>2</sup>**



**Alaska seniors face the nation's highest costs for skilled nursing, home health care, and adult day services.<sup>3</sup>**



**Seniors and Elders depend on free legal aid services, like ALSC, to navigate the complex justice system to secure their vital health, income, and social services.**

### SENIORS/ELDERS SERVED

In FY24, 29% of ALSC's clients receiving direct legal aid were Alaskans aged 60 and older. ALSC provided direct casework to 1,722 seniors, positively impacting 2,913 individuals and their families across 151 communities.

### CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: SECURING STABILITY AND INDEPENDENCE

Elizabeth (name changed for privacy) is an elderly abuse survivor from a small Alaskan village. After her doctor recognized signs of abuse, she was referred to ALSC for help. With the assistance of an ALSC attorney, Elizabeth not only secured a one-year protective order, ensuring her immediate safety, but also received crucial legal support with her estate case and the execution of a will.

By addressing these legal matters, ALSC helped prevent potential complications giving Elizabeth peace of mind. With her legal affairs in order, Elizabeth returned to her village empowered and protected, thanks to ALSC's comprehensive and compassionate support.

1. 2021 Profile of Older Americans, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Available at: <https://acl.gov/aging-and-disability-in-america/data-and-research/profile-older-americans>

2. State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Commission on Aging, Alaska State Plan for Senior Services FY2016-2019. Available at: [http://dhss.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/ACoA\\_StatePlan\\_FY16-FY19.pdf](http://dhss.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/ACoA_StatePlan_FY16-FY19.pdf)

3. Alaska Commission on Aging Senior Snapshot: Older Alaskans in 2020/21 Available at: [https://health.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/ACoA\\_seniorsnapshot\\_2022.pdf](https://health.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/ACoA_seniorsnapshot_2022.pdf)

