

DO YOU NEED LEGAL HELP?

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and the Lincoln County office of Oregon Legal Services are beginning a new service to tribal members. You can get help in finding legal resources in your community, get free written legal information on common legal problems, talk with an attorney for advice about your options, or get help if you are going to Tribal Court. Services are only available to enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes.

Linda Gast, an attorney with Oregon Legal Services, will be working half-time to provide this service. Because this is a pilot project, services will be limited to begin with and may expand as more is learned about the legal needs and priorities of tribal members. At the start, a priority will be helping those tribal members who have cases or want to bring cases in Tribal Court. Advice appointments will be available on other legal issues for tribal members who live in Lincoln County as time and resources allow. Because the project hopes to help as many people as possible, tribal members outside of Lincoln County will be provided with referrals to possible free or low cost services in their community, written self help information when available, and possible advice in emergencies. Services are provided on civil legal matters, not criminal.

Contact Oregon Legal Services to find out more. Please tell staff that you are interested in the Siletz Tribal services. You will need to provide your enrollment number; enrollment numbers must be checked with the Enrollment Department to ensure current enrollment status, but that will be treated as confidential by the Enrollment Department. All other aspects of services provided are also confidential, between you and your attorney. Members in the Newport calling area can call 265-5305; in all other areas, call 1-800-222-3884. You can stop in at the Newport office during public hours: Monday through Wednesday, 10 AM to 2 PM. Messages can be left on the phone or at the Newport office at all other times, including evenings and weekends. You can also write or visit Oregon Legal Services at 127 SW Nye, PO Box 1970, Newport, OR 97365. Appointments can be by

phone, at the Newport office, or in Siletz. Space will be set up in Siletz to meet, leave messages and papers, and pick up legal information on common legal concerns.

This pilot program is not designed to meet all legal needs of tribal members. That is not possible with a half time attorney. But it is a start. A survey of tribal members is planned in the spring to gather more information on what members identify as their legal needs and priorities.

KNOW YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS!

A public service question and answer column from:

*Swanson, Thomas, & Coon
621 SW Morrison, Suite 900
Portland, Oregon 97205
(503) 228-5222*

Question:

My former employer paid me a salary of \$180.00 per week for working at the counter in his store. Several months ago I gave 10 days notice and quit my job because I found a job that paid more money. He paid me on my next regular payday. Did my employer treat me fairly?

Answer:

No. Your employer must pay you a minimum wage of \$4.75 per hour unless you regularly supervise two or more employees. In addition, your employer must pay you all wages upon termination, whether you quit or are fired, unless you gave less than 48 hours notice before quitting. If the employer violates this law, he or she must pay your average daily wage until you are paid the wages owed for a maximum of thirty days.

Question:

My employer terminated me while I was out of work due to an on-the-job injury. I am now medically stationary with a permanent weight-lifting restriction but he refuses to rehire me. Is this legal?

Answer:

It depends. Your employer is required to place you into the first available and suitable position within your medical restrictions so long as you have demanded a return to work within 7 days of the date you become medically stationary.

Your employer is not required to create a position for you and is not required to fire someone hired to replace you while you were out of work. However, he must place you in a position within your abilities and restrictions if such a position is open.

Question:

I have been denied the right to bring my motorized scooter, which was recommended by my doctor after my hip was replaced, into the lunchroom because it takes up more space than a standard chair. My office building is fairly modern. Does this violate the ADA?

Answer:

Yes. The ADA requires that an employer provide reasonable accommodation to employees with physical and mental disabilities. Your employer must provide all employees with access to facilities such as the lunchroom, restrooms and other common areas.

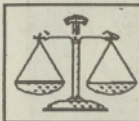
SILETZ VALLEY COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP FORMED

*Submitted by Anne Swinehart,
Health Educator Lincoln County
Partnership*

The Lincoln County Partnership is an association of groups and individuals who are concerned about alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse in our communities. Partners include many representatives from business, local government, the school district, community groups, public and private agencies, youth, parents, grandparents, law enforcement, and other community mentors. The Partnership's role is to assist communities to evaluate community standards regarding drug abuse, establish a network to plan and implement a local and county-wide strategy for preventing drug-related problems, to expand systems for education, prevention and treatment of drug-related problems, and to make permanent the achievements of our community partnerships.

The Lincoln County Partnership has community development efforts in East County, Newport, Lincoln

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