

## VEGAS STRONG LEGAL & FINANCIAL TOOLKIT

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada wishes to express its sincere condolences to all of those affected by the tragic events occurring on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Many will face a multitude of civil legal issues in the coming days, weeks and months. Issues can range from the need to obtain guardianship over an orphaned child or help with probate or insurance problems. Others may need help when debts pile up because a household provider has been unable to return to work due to traumatic injury. It is also expected that out-of-state visitors may need help finding an attorney in their own jurisdiction. We do not want individuals to face these issues alone and without legal guidance. Our nonprofit organization, in existence since 1958, together with our partner, the State Bar of Nevada, are joining forces to provide free legal help to those in need. This checklist provides some needed legal information and resources to those affected by this event.

### Therapy and Physical Injuries

- For those injured (including emotional distress) – get treatment right away.
- Your health insurance provider can let you know what providers are covered under your plan.
- If you do not have a doctor or know who is covered, contact First Med at (702) 731-0909. They will help you locate help.
- You can also contact the Disaster Distress Helpline – call 800-985-5990. <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline>
- If you were employed at the event, let your employer know (in writing) asap. Seek treatment immediately and advise the doctor/therapist that you worked during the event.
- If you are interested in a free community support group, contact Chaplain Matt Metevelis at (702) 938-3960 or [MMeteelis@nah.org](mailto:MMeteelis@nah.org) for more information.

### Funeral and probate/estate issues

- The State of Nevada Victims of Crime Compensation fund assists with funeral expenses. See <http://voc.nv.gov/> or call (702) 486-2740. Zappos has also agreed to help pay some of the funeral costs for all 58 victims – contact [zapposforgood@zappos.com](mailto:zapposforgood@zappos.com) for more information.
- For help with handling the estate needs (will/probate/trusts/power-of-attorney), contact Legal Aid Center (702) 386-1598 or [LegalAidServices@lacs.org](mailto:LegalAidServices@lacs.org). We have over 50 Nevada attorneys standing by to assist pro bono (free).
- For victims in other states, the State Bar of Nevada and Attorney General's office will assist us in finding attorneys and victims' advocates in other jurisdictions. Services can include a free consultation or an attorney undertaking the entire representation for free. Contact Legal Aid Center (702) 386-1598 or send an email to [LegalAidServices@lacs.org](mailto:LegalAidServices@lacs.org) and we will connect you with the State Bar of Nevada who can get you the proper referral.
- Life insurance policies are often overlooked or forgotten in the shock of losing a loved one. Remember to look for life insurance policies; if your loved one was working, you can inquire with their employer about the policy.

### Hospital and Medical Bills

- Make sure every bill is submitted to your health insurance company. Keep a copy for your records.
- Ask if the insurance company or hospital or doctor will waive your co-pay and deductible. While they are not under an obligation to do so, they may do it upon request.

- Nevada medical care providers agreeing to waive the patient's portion of their bill:
  - St. Rose de Lima Hospital
  - American Medical Response
  - MedicWest Ambulance
- Nevada insurance companies agreeing to waive any patient's portion of their bills: UnitedHealthcare, (includes Health Plan of Nevada and Sierra Health and Life) will cover the cost share for the initial course of emergency and trauma treatments for their members who were victims of the attack
- There is a Victims of Violent Crime compensation program. Those injured from this tragedy may be eligible for assistance from this program. <http://voc.nv.gov/>
- If your insurance company is refusing to pay your claim, you need assisting negotiating these waivers, or completing an application for victims of crime compensation, contact us at (702) 386-1598. We will negotiate on your behalf.

### **For anyone working the event**

- If you were injured and need treatment, make sure you see a doctor or therapist as soon as possible. Your first doctor visit will be paid wherever you go. After that, you will be given information about approved doctors.
- Inform your employer (or send them a C-1 form or email saying you were injured). Do this as soon as possible.
- Your bills will be paid and you will receive 66 2/3% of your salary while you cannot work.
- You are entitled to be paid for the event. No employer can withhold your wages until you sign a waiver.
- For anyone working at the event who has an immigration issue, call us. There may be a crime victim visa available to help you.
- For anyone who needs assistance with any of these issues, contact Legal Aid Center (702) 386-1598 or [LegalAidServices@lacs.nv.gov](mailto:LegalAidServices@lacs.nv.gov).

### **Compensation**

- Injured victims or their families may file a victim of crime application for assistance with expenses. Any concert attendee is also eligible for counselling reimbursement. This application must be filed as soon as possible, even if you do not know the final amount of your bills. The application is here: <http://voc.nv.gov/>. Things that are covered are here: [http://voc.nv.gov/VOC/Covered\\_Expenses/](http://voc.nv.gov/VOC/Covered_Expenses/). The maximum amount per person is \$35,000. If you have any questions or if you are denied, call us.
- For victims who live in California, you complete a different application. See <https://www.victims.ca.gov/>
- In their grief, many victims overlook the existence of short or long term disability policies. You can inquire with your employer whether you have one with them.
- For anyone who needs assistance with any of these issues or if you have questions about what expenses are covered, contact Legal Aid Center (702) 386-1598 or [LegalAidServices@lacs.nv.gov](mailto:LegalAidServices@lacs.nv.gov).

### **Victim funds**

- The Las Vegas Victims Fund is accepting applications for benefits **now through 1/31/18**. The application is open to those who were physically injured from the October 1 attack and required treatment at a hospital or on an out-patient basis on or before 10/11/17; those who were physically injured from the October 1 attack and required at least one overnight hospital stay during the period 10/1/17 to 12/15/17 as a result of the injuries; and for the estates of deceased victims killed as a result of the October 1 attack. If you need assistance with the application or if you have questions, please contact us ([LegalAidServices@lacs.nv.gov](mailto:LegalAidServices@lacs.nv.gov) or 702-386-1598).
- You can register to receive notifications through National Center for Victims of Crime. See <https://nationalcompassionfund.org/funds/las-vegas-contact/>

### **Lost Property**

- Property recovery services can be accessed online by completing a questionnaire. If the item does not have your name on it or lacks other specific identifying factors, use as much detail as possible to describe the item. Include a photo of the item(s) if possible. The questionnaire can be accessed here: <https://forms.fbi.gov/seeking-victims-of-las-vegas-music-festival-shooting>
- For those that lost cell phones, you are encouraged to send a text message of your full name to that phone to help authorities identify it.
- You may also email the information about your lost property with details and photos if possible to: [LVFestivalAssist@fbi.gov](mailto:LVFestivalAssist@fbi.gov).

## Filing a Police Report

- **For local residents who want to file a police report:**
  - Call 3-1-1 and file a report telephonically if you are a victim of the shooting;
  - File a report at an [area command](#) near you or at the [Records and Fingerprint Bureau](#) located at LVMPD Headquarters
- **FOR OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTS WHO WANT TO FILE A POLICE REPORT:**
  - Call (702) 828-3111 and file a report telephonically if you are a victim of the shooting; or
  - File a report with your hometown police department and fax it to 702-828-1555.
- In addition to filing a local police report, the FBI has this posted: <https://forms.fbi.gov/seeking-victims-of-las-vegas-music-festival-shooting>

## In Person Assistance for All Services

Clark County and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police have established a Vegas Strong Resiliency Center, located at the Lied Ambulatory Care Center, at 1524 Pinto Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, in Las Vegas near Martin Luther King Boulevard. As of October 23, 2017, the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center will begin serving as a resource and referral center for victims, survivors and people affected by 1 October. Anyone interested in accessing services should call (702) 455-2433 or 1-833-299-2433 for information or to schedule appointments. It is open 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

## Fraud

- Beware of fraud. There are many people who prey on those that are victims, attempting to loan them money (at outrageous interest rates) or try to get payment for helping people fill out applications for assistance.
- Beware of scam charities.
- Get a free honest legal opinion before you sign anything.
- Do not pay anyone for helping you complete a form.
- Please contact us at (702) 386-1598 or email us at [LegalAidServices@lacs.org](mailto:LegalAidServices@lacs.org) if you would any assistance with this.
- Contact the Nevada Attorney General's office at (702) 486-3420 or [http://ag.nv.gov/Complaints/File\\_Complaint/](http://ag.nv.gov/Complaints/File_Complaint/) to report fraud.

## Other Resources

- <https://www.ovc.gov/news/las-vegas-nevada.html>
- <https://www.uwsn.org/give-or-get-help>
- <https://www.lvmpd.com/en-us/Pages/1OctoberFestivalShooting.aspx>

**HOLD ON TO EVERYTHING TO PROVE YOU ATTENDED THE EVENT:  
Pictures, receipts, emails, Social Media posts, wristbands, anything to prove you were there.**

*Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada*

(702) 386-1598 for further assistance

725 E. Charleston Blvd.

Las Vegas, NV 89104

[LegalAidServices@LACSN.org](mailto:LegalAidServices@LACSN.org)

[www.LACSN.org](http://www.LACSN.org)