



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

**INFORMATION FOR BRITISH NATIONALS IMPRISONED & DETAINED IN
POLICE CUSTODY IN THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

**CONSULAR SECTION
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION
ALEXANDER PALLIS STREET
P O BOX 21978
1587 NICOSIA**

Tel:(+357) 22 861100 (24hrs) For emergencies out of normal working hours or public holidays phone the switchboard number above and follow the emergency contact options. BHC email Nicosia.consular@fco.gov.uk or ukincyprus@fco.gov.uk

Fax:(+357) 22 861200

Disclaimer: This booklet was compiled by the Consular Section, British High Commission, Nicosia. It is revised on a regular basis. If any of the information contained in this booklet is incorrect, please draw inaccuracies to our attention so that we can make amendments. The British High Commission is not accountable for the information provided in this booklet. Local proceedings are subject to change at any time.

Thank you.

Date of Last update: 16 March 2017

Introduction

This guide aims to explain the Cyprus legal system to British Nationals, and the next of kin of British Nationals, who are detained or held on remand at a police station in Cyprus.

About the Consular Section

We are impartial and are not here to judge you. Our aims are to ensure that you are treated humanely and fairly and in accordance with Cypriot & international regulations. However we cannot obtain better treatment for you than that given to other prisoners. We can answer questions about your welfare and about prison regulations but not questions about legal matters. Legal questions should be addressed to your lawyer or the court. **We cannot get you out of prison, pay fines, stand bail, interfere in local judicial procedures, or secure you an earlier trial date. We cannot investigate a crime or your particular case.**

Who will know that I have been detained?

When a British citizen is first arrested they will be asked by the police if they want the police to inform the British High Commission of their arrest & detention; **if you do not consent to us being informed** you will be asked to confirm this in writing by signing a form (in Greek). If you do consent to us being informed this is done in writing and normally takes no longer than two days. However, family or friends may inform us more quickly, but we cannot normally discuss your situation with a 3rd party without your consent, but can give them general information.

The Cyprus authorities will inform us if you receive a custodial prison sentence, but **not** if you are **remanded** to the central prison – especially if you previously asked the BHC not to be informed of your arrest & detention. We have an additional information pack should you be sent to the Central prison. **Remember, you can receive consular assistance at any time even if you previously declined it.**

What will the Consular Section do?

A member of the British High Commission will aim to contact you within two working days of receiving police notification of your detention. **With your consent** we will offer to contact your family or next-of-kin to inform them of the situation. We can give them advice on prison procedure and regulations and on your physical condition and morale. We can pass on initial messages after your arrest **providing** they do not prejudice or potentially interfere with any investigation, or evidence.

Where appropriate, we will consider approaching the local authorities if you are not treated in line with internationally accepted standards. We can also advise and support you in making a complaint about regarding your treatment in custody. However, we have the same obligation not to interfere in cases before the civil courts of another state, as we have in criminal cases. When a case is before the courts, consular staff **cannot** attempt to influence the judgement of the court or to otherwise challenge the decision made by the courts.

Who are my Consular Representatives?

James McCamley	Nikki Bevan	Louise Knight	Christina Smith
Consular Officer	Consular Officer	Consular Officer	Vice Consul
Tel: 22 861 371	Tel: 22 861 233	Tel 22 861 374	Tel: 22 861 361

How can I contact my family or friends?

In Cyprus there is no automatic right to make a telephone call when you are arrested and the Police may withhold visits while they are questioning you. However, you can ask a Consular officer to inform next-of-kin or pass on messages via your lawyer.

What will my family be told?

For reasons of confidentiality we are not permitted to tell anyone that you have been detained or the nature of the charges levelled against you without your permission. The Consular Section must have your permission before we will discuss your case, or confirm your detention, with anyone else.

Is the Cyprus Judicial System the same as the UK?

The system in Cyprus is different from the UK. There are two types of offences; major offences and minor offences. Minor offences are dealt with in a district court (one judge) and the major cases are heard in the Assizes court (3 Judges); in all courts the Judges preside over the case as the jury system is not employed in Cyprus. The system in Cyprus involves the Judges being responsible for carrying out wide-ranging enquiries in order to produce a file of evidence on each case. The judge uses this file of evidence as a basis for deciding their verdict. The trial is regarded as the final act in each investigation and the judge is very much in control of proceedings and will ask most of the questions.

The arrest procedure

Arrests are normally supported by an arrest warrant issued by a judge. However, if a police officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that a person has committed a serious crime, that person may be arrested without a warrant.

A person taken into custody without a warrant must, within twenty-four hours, either be charged with an offence; be released upon certain terms pending the investigation; or be brought before a judge for a warrant of arrest. The latter is the most common procedure. If the warrant is issued, it will state that the person shall be remanded in custody or be released on bail immediately after his or her arrest. If remanded, the remand order will be for a maximum of eight days, but if the police so request, a judge may extend the period of the remand if he is satisfied that the police reasonably require more time to complete their investigations. The length of each remand period should adhere to the time ordered by the court.

The courts normally have an interpreter for the defendant -it depends upon the circumstances of the case- but it is not a word-for-word translation. If found guilty, a fine or a custodial, or suspended sentence may be imposed by the court.

Fines

If sentenced to a fine, a prisoner will either have to produce the funds 'quickly' or potentially be transferred to Nicosia Central Prison until it is paid. (The Court will determine how long you may have to remain in custody until the fine is paid). If insufficient funds are available in Cyprus, the British High Commission can help by contacting next-of-kin or friends anywhere in the world to inform them how to transfer funds. **However, the British High Commission cannot pay fines from public funds, even on a loan basis.**

Nicosia Central Prison advise that they are able to accept payments for fines via Western Union. The procedure is:

- Contact Nicosia Prison and confirm the preferred Western Union Branch in Nicosia, the exact amount (in Euros) of the fine and obtain the prisoner's number.
- Detainee's relatives or friends to arrange the exact amount to be transferred via Western Union.
- When the money has been transferred over, the Prison finance office needs to be informed * of the Address of the WU office and the reference number. * Prison finance office +357 22406165.
- A Prison Officer will be dispatched to collect the money, and then arrangements will be made for the detainee to be released – on weekends or public holidays their release may be delayed..

Bail

An appointed lawyer on behalf of the detainee may request bail to the judge. Sometimes, bail requests are granted. However, if a case is very serious the judge may use his discretion and not

3 Disclaimer: This information is provided by the British Government for the convenience of enquirers, but neither Her Majesty's Government nor any official of the Consulate take any responsibility for the competence or probity of any firm/lawyer on these lists or for the consequence of any legal action initiated or advice given.

grant bail, and a detainee will remain on remand either at a police cell or moved to Nicosia central prison. **We cannot make representations regarding your bail, or get you more favourable bail conditions – this is the role of your lawyer.**

Which is the longest I could be held in remand?

You can be remanded in custody for more than six months if:

- You are suspected of having committed a serious crime
- Extensive investigations are required
- You are awaiting court trial

If any of these conditions apply, your case must be placed before the Assizes Court. If the Assizes Court orders further detention, it must be satisfied that:

- There is a strong suspicion that an offence has been committed and that if released, you would flee.
- Your conduct suggests that if you were released you might tamper with the evidence or influence witnesses or prejudice the proceedings in some other way.
- Having been charged with sexual offence or offences against the person, there is reason to believe that you will continue to commit these offences if you are not remanded in custody.

Investigation and indictment

The District Attorney Office i.e., the Public Prosecutor's Office, prosecute the case on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus. When it is deemed that there is sufficient evidence to prosecute, the investigation stage is formally closed and the trial stage begins. The District Attorney's Office must produce an indictment that sets out details of the accused, the crime of which they are accused, when and where the crime took place, the legal definition of the crime and the criminal laws applicable to the case. When the judge receives the indictment the date for the trial is set. **Please note:** where there is a 'victim,' the Attorney General may proceed with a case even if the charges are dropped by the 'victim' if it is in the 'public interest' to proceed.

Legal representation/Advice:

Although we are not trained & cannot give legal advice, start legal proceedings or investigate a crime, we can offer basic information about the local legal system; we can give you a list of lawyers/interpreters but we cannot pay for either. It is important to consider carefully whether you need legal representation and discuss all the costs involved beforehand.

You can appoint a lawyer, **at your own expense**, at anytime following your arrest; a list of English-speaking lawyers is provided with this information sheet. Normally, if you appoint a lawyer, they will ask for an advance of their fee (which may be high) before he will take on your case; ensure you understand all the costs/fees involved before you appoint a lawyer. **Remember - The British High Commission cannot pay legal fees or make financial guarantees to lawyers.**

If you do not have a lawyer when you **come to trial**, the court may appoint a lawyer free of charge, if the judge is satisfied that you do not have sufficient funds; if the charge is a serious/complicated one; you need legal assistance to properly defend yourself or you are not capable of handling your own defence. Legal Aid may be available where the court decides that you are unable to afford the cost of the proceedings without affecting your basic needs and obligations and those of your family. See attached legal aid information.

Legal Aid: You can only apply for legal aid when you have been to court and the charges against you read out and you have entered a plea. Before this period i.e. before you are charged formally in court, you CANNOT apply for legal aid.

List of lawyers in the Republic of Cyprus
Prepared by British High Commission Nicosia

www.gov.uk

The following list of lawyers has been prepared by the British High Commission Nicosia for the convenience of British Nationals who may require legal advice and assistance in the Republic of Cyprus. It is provided on the understanding that we (the British High Commission) do not assume or undertake any legal responsibility, to you, or those affected, if you choose to take it into account when instructing a local lawyer.

Further and alternatively, we cannot accept any liability to any person or company for any financial loss or damage arising from the use of this information or from any failure to give information.

Our aim is to provide our customers with as much relevant information to enable them to make better informed decisions but our lists are **not recommendations and should not be treated as such**.

Updated: February 2017 - This list is in alphabetical order.

Antonis Andreou & CO LLC

Address: 23-25 Piliou Street, George Mattheou Court 5th Floor 6037 Larnaca

Telephone number: +357 24828373

Email: info@antoniosandreou.com

Website: www.antonioandreou.com

This company has told us the following things:

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association
- Specialisations are in all areas of law
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can provide legal aid
- In appropriate circumstances they can offer a Pro Bono service
- Staff speak: Greek and English
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They don't have international offices but are members of the Association of Independent European lawyers, so they are affiliated with all law firms of the Association

Andreas Coucounis & CO LLC

Address: 9, Archbishop Makarios III Avenue, Lazaros centre. 1st Floor, Offices 101-102. Larnaca 6017

Telephone number: +357 24822460

Email: info@coucounis.com

Website: www.coucounis.com

This company has told us the following things:

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association
- Specialisations are in all areas of law
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can provide legal aid under certain circumstances (Relevant to the legal aid law of 2002)
- They can't offer a Pro Bono service
- Staff speak: Greek, English, Italian, French, Russian and German
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They don't have international offices but are members of the International Bar and others

Michael Damianos & CO LLC**Address:** Office 401,42E Arch, Makariou Avenue, Nicosia, P.C 1065**Telephone number:** +357 22021212**Email:** michael@damianoslaw.com**Website:** www.damianoslaw.com**This company has told us the following things:**

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association and Nicosia Bar Association
- Specialisations are in all areas of law
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can't provide legal aid
- They can offer a Pro Bono service within their areas of expertise
- Staff speak: Greek and English
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They don't have international offices

Andreas Demetriades & Co LLC**Address:** 16 Nikoloau Nikolaides Street, Tryfonas Court, 3rd Floor, PO Box 60047, 8100 Paphos**Telephone number:** +357 26811668**Email:** info@demetriadeslaw.com**Website:** www.demetriadeslaw.com**This company has told us the following things:**

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the local Bar Association, Cyprus Bar Association, English Solicitors Regulation Authority and the International Bar Association.
- Specialisations are in all areas of law
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can't provide legal aid
- They can offer a Pro Bono service in some cases
- Staff speak: Greek, English and French
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They don't have international offices but have associates

Elias M. Eliades**Address:** 27, Neofitou Nicolaides Av. Anita Court. 3rd Floor, office 301-302 Paphos. 8011**Telephone number:** +357 99211921**Email:** eliaseliades_law@cytanet.com.cy**Website:** Not provided**This company has told us the following things:**

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Paphos Bar Association
- Specialisations are in all areas of law judicial and extrajudicial cases
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can provide legal aid
- They can't offer a Pro Bono service
- Staff speak: Greek and English
- They provide their services in Paphos
- They don't have international offices

Andreas P. Erotokritou & CO LLC

Address: 1st floor, Zena building, 18 Theofani Theodotou Street, Nicosia. 1065

Telephone number: +357 22764466

Email: a.erotokritou@cytanet.com.cy

Website: Not provided

This company has told us the following things:

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association, Nicosia Bar Association and UK Bar Association
- Specialisations are in arbitration, banking & finance, civil, commercial, corporate litigation, debt collection, family law, insurance law, international tax planning, intellectual property, real estate and wills
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can't provide legal aid
- They can't offer a Pro Bono service
- Staff speak: Greek and English
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They don't have international offices but have associate offices in other countries

Kaimakliotis & Co

Address: 145 Faneromenis Avenue, 6031 Larnaca

Telephone number: +357 24000300

Email: info@kaimakliotislaw.com

Website: www.kaimakliotislaw.com

This company has told us the following things:

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Larnaca Bar Association
- Specialisations are criminal, civil litigation, immigration and corporate and commercial law
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can provide legal aid under certain circumstances
- They can offer a Pro Bono service
- Staff speak: Greek and English

- They don't have international offices but have associate offices in other countries
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus

Georgiades & Associates LLC

Address: 2 Ayios Pavlos & Kadmos Str, Wisdom Tower, 3rd floor, Nicosia 1701

Telephone number: +357 22819292

Email: enquiries@gmadvocates.com

Website: www.gmadvocates.com

This company has told us the following things:

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association
- Specialisations are in all areas of law
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can provide legal aid
- They can't offer a Pro Bono service
- Staff speak: Greek, English, Russian, German, Ukrainian and French
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They have international offices in Greece and UK

Michael Kyprianou & CO LLC**Address:** 116 Gladstonos Street, Michael Kyprianou House, 3rd & 4th Floor, 3032 Limassol**Telephone number:** +357 25363685**Email:** info@kyprianou.com.cy**Website:** www.kyprianou.com.cy**This company has told us the following things:**

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the local Bar Associations, Cyprus Bar Association, Piraeus Bar Association, Athens Bar Association, Malta Bar Association and International Bar Association
- Specialisations are in all areas of law
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can provide legal aid
- They can offer a Pro Bono service in some cases
- Staff speak: Greek, English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Ukrainian and Turkish
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They have international offices in Greece, Ukraine and Malta

Chr. P. Mitsides & Co LLC**Address:** 2 Methonis Street, 1070 Nicosia**Telephone number:** +357 22458787**Email:** info@mitsides.com**Website:** www.mitsides.com**This company has told us the following things:**

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association
- Specialisations are in all areas of law
- They have experience of representing British nationals.
- They can't provide legal aid
- They can offer a Pro Bono service in some cases
- Staff speak: Greek and English
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They have an associate office in Austria and connections in Germany

Andreas A. Papadopoulos & CO.**Address:** 24 Louki Akrita Str. Limassol 3030**Telephone number:** +357 25356400**Email:** ap@papalaw.com.cy**Website:** Not provided**This company has told us the following things:**

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association, and for arbitration issues to the Chartered Institute of Arbitrator UK
- Specialisations are in real estate, wills & probate, property, company, employment, family and personal injury
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can provide limited legal aid
- They can offer a limited Pro Bono service
- Staff speak: Greek, English, French, Spanish and Russian.
- They provide their services in Limassol but work with partners throughout Cyprus
- They don't have international offices

Antonis Paschalides & CO LLC

Address: Corner of Makariou Avenue and Agias Elenis 36, Glaxias Building, 5th floor, Office 502, Nicosia 1061

Telephone number: +357 22672333

Email: paschalides@paschalides.com

Website: www.paschalides.com

This company has told us the following things:

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association and Nicosia Bar Association
- Specialisations are in civil litigation, banking law, inheritance and succession, family law, corporate law and company, registration and management
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can provide legal aid
- They can't offer a Pro Bono service
- Staff speak: Greek and English
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They don't have international offices but have an associate office in London

Pelekanos & CO

Address: 6 Louki Pieride Street, Lysion Court, 2nd Floor, Flat 9, Larnaca

Telephone number: +357 24657272

Email: pelekanos.co@cytanet.com.cy

Website: Not provided

This company has told us the following things:

- They have English speaking staff
 - They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association,
 - Specialisations are in civil and criminal litigation, corporate law, family law, inheritance and probate jurisdiction, property law and contract drafting.
 - They have experience of representing British nationals.
 - They can't provide legal aid
 - They can offer a Pro Bono service depending on the case
 - Staff speak: Greek and English
 - They provide their services in Larnaca, Nicosia and Limassol
- They don't have international Offices but have associates in England, Greece and Ireland.

Soteris Pittas & Co LLC

Address: 10 Chrysanthou Mylona Str, Magnum House, Limassol. 3030

Telephone number: +357 25028460

Email: Contact through their website

Website: www.pittaslegal.com

This company has told us the following things:

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association
- Specialisations are corporate and commercial litigation, international business transactions, intellectual property, banking, finance, corporate services, admiralty and maritime etc. Contentious and non contentious matters
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can't provide legal aid
- They can't offer Pro Bono service
- Staff speak: Greek, English, Russian, French, Serbian, Croatian and Italian
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They don't have international offices but have solid connections and affiliations in other jurisdictions of the world.

Dr Andreas Poetis & Co LLC**Address:** Poetis Tower, 41-43 Artemidos Avenue, 6025 Larnaca**Telephone number:** +357 24655777**Email:** dr.poetis@cytanet.com.cy**Website:** www.drpoetis.com**This company has told us the following things:**

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association, some lawyers are affiliated to the Larnaca Bar Association and Famagusta Bar Association
- Specialisations are in all areas of law
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can provide legal aid
- They can offer Pro Bono service
- Staff speak: Greek, English, German and French
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They don't have international offices but have solid connections and affiliations in other jurisdictions of the world.

George L. Savvides &CO LLC**Address:** Omega court, 1st & 2nd Floor, 4 Rigas Fereos Street, Limassol 3095**Telephone number:** +357 25376886**Email:** limassol@glslaw.com.cy nicosia@glslaw.com.cy**Website:** www.glslaw.com.cy**This company has told us the following things:**

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association
- Specialisations are company formation and administration, commercial law, shipping, competition law, personal injury, tort, matrimonial law, property law, sale of land, general commercial practice.
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can provide legal aid
- They are happy to consider proposals for Pro Bono services
- Staff speak: Greek, English and French
- They provide their services predominately in Limassol and Nicosia but can consider other areas
- They don't have international offices.

Nicolaidis and Stylianou LLC**Address:** 20 Homer Avenue, 5th Floor, Nicosia 1097**Telephone number:** +357 22445800**Email:** info@ns-lawyers.com**Website:** www.ns-lawyers.com**This company has told us the following things:**

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association
- Specialisations are in real estate, construction and planning, trusts, wills and probate, tax and estate planning, financial services, medical insurance and personal injury, dispute resolution civil and criminal litigation, family law, intellectual property
- They have experience of representing British nationals.
- They can't provide legal aid
- They can offer a Pro Bono service only in personal injury claims
- Staff speak: Greek and English
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus

They don't have international Offices

L.G. Zambartas LLC

Address: Euro House, 1st Floor, 82 Spyrou Kyprianou Avenue, Limassol,4042

Telephone number: +357 25 373734

Email: Contact through their website

Website: www.zambartaslawoffices.com

This company has told us the following things:

- They have English speaking staff
- They are affiliated to the Cyprus Bar Association and English Solicitors Regulation Authority
- Specialisations are in property, wills & estates, escrow services, civil litigation, international family law, corporate services and shipping services
- They have experience of representing British nationals
- They can't provide limited legal aid
- They can't offer Pro Bono service
- Staff speak: Greek, English, Arabic, Slovakian and Czech, Spanish and Russian.
- They provide their services throughout Cyprus
- They don't have international offices but have associates

Feedback Form for Customers

If you do decide to use any of the lawyers on this list, we would like to hear from you. While there is no obligation on your part to provide feedback on the services you receive, **any feedback you can give us is helpful**. Once completed, please return the form to the British High Commission Nicosia by post to Alexander Pallis Street, PO Box 21978 1587 Nicosia or by email to Nicosia.consular@fco.gov.uk. Thank you for your help.

1. Name of firm:

Name of lawyer:

2. Date of contact:

Are any of the details on our list regarding this provider wrong? (e.g. address, telephone number, etc.)

3. What service did you need?

4. Why did you need this service?

Please circle the appropriate boxes below:

(a) If the service provided English speaking services, how would you rate the standard of English?

Excellent Good Average Poor Very Poor

(b) How would you rate the professionalism of the staff?

Excellent Good Average Poor Very Poor

(c) How would you rate the overall service received?

Excellent Good Average Poor Very Poor

(d) How would you rate the value for money?

Excellent Good Average Poor Very Poor

5. Do you have any other comments?

We would like to share this information with other customers but if you would prefer it not to be seen by others please tick the box

Feedback provider's name:

Tel:

Email:

Date No:

Legal Aid in Cyprus

1. What are the costs of a trial and who should normally pay them?

The costs will depend upon the exact nature of the case and include all costs of the legal proceedings. Normally, the costs include the costs of the procedure, the costs for the preparation of the legal documents and the filing of interim applications, the costs of a hearing and appearances, before the court, before and after the hearing, the costs of the witnesses, the costs for the preparation of the list of costs and the costs for the preparation of letters before and during the proceedings. The court will decide at the end of each case (civil claims and private criminal) taking into account all the circumstances of each case, who should pay the costs. As a rule, in civil and private criminal cases, the losing party to the procedure will be ordered to pay all the costs. However, there are exceptions to this rule. The Court may decide that each party will be liable for its own costs. As regards criminal cases, the Court will set the costs of the legal proceedings on the basis of the complexity of the case.

2. What is legal aid?

Legal aid is a funding provided to a person entitled and usually includes advice and assistance with any legal problems, in relation to proceedings and representation by a lawyer in court. Representation includes any kind of assistance which is usually provided by a lawyer in relation to proceedings, in all stages, until the delivery of a judgment, as well as appeal proceedings and in the case of a criminal procedure includes any stage relating to the procedure before it commence.

3. Can I benefit from legal aid?

Entitled to receive legal aid is any natural person (nationals and non-nationals) who cannot bear the costs of the proceedings without affecting the basic needs and obligations of himself and his family.

4. Can legal aid be obtained for all disputes?

Legal aid is granted in proceedings before the Courts of Cyprus and particularly in:

- Criminal proceedings before the District Court, the Tribunal Court, the Military Court and the Supreme Court.
- Civil and criminal proceedings for specific violations of human rights.
- Proceedings before the Family Court in relation to matters of family relations, parental responsibility, alimony, recognition of child, adoption, property relations of spouses and any other dispute in the marriage or in the family; and
- cross-border disputes.

5. Is there a specific procedure for emergencies?

If the case is urgent, the lawyer, may ask the court, before which the case is tried, to issue a certificate for granting legal aid. The court in such cases shall give the necessary priority of examining the application.

6. Where can I obtain an application form for legal aid?

An application form can be obtained from the Registry of the Court which has, depending on the case, jurisdiction to examine the application to grant legal aid. The application form is then completed by the applicant or his/her lawyer, is submitted to the Court, before which the case is tried and is registered in the Special Register of the same Registry.

7. Which documents should I attach to my request for legal aid?

A written statement containing general information in relation to your personal data, your profession, your remunerations and incomes, your property assets, your marital status etc (Form 2 of Application for granting legal aid).

8. Where should I register my request for legal aid?

The application is submitted to the Court where your case is tried unless it is related to cross-border disputes, where in such a case, the application should first be received by the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, which ensures that this application is submitted to the competent court which will consider it.

9. How will I be informed of whether or not I am eligible for legal aid?

Through any Legal Service (Courts, Law Office of the Republic, Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court, Registries of District Courts, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Cyprus Bar Association, Local Bar Associations).

10. If I qualify for legal aid, what should I do?

For the proceedings referred to in 4 (a),(b)and (c) above, you should apply in writing to the Court, before which the case is tried and request the issue of a certificate of legal aid. In proceedings relating to cross border disputes, competent receiving and transmitting authority has been designated the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, 125, Athalassas Avenue, 1461, Strovolos, Nicosia. The Ministry of Justice and Public Order receives such applications via mail(including e-mail), or via fax. Such applications are accepted in the Greek or the English Language.

11. If I qualify for legal aid, who will choose my lawyer?

The lawyer is chosen by the person entitled to legal aid from a list of lawyers who are willing to offer their services. In the case where the person entitled to legal aid does not indicate a lawyer of his own choice, the Court that issues the certificate of legal aid calls this person to choose a lawyer of his/her preference from the list of lawyers, interested to offer their services within the framework of the institution of legal aid, prepared by the Cyprus Bar Association.

12. If I qualify for legal aid, will this cover all the costs of my trial?

If a certificate for free legal aid is granted by the Court, then all your costs are covered.

13. If I qualify for partial legal aid, who will pay the other costs?

No such provision exists under the laws of Cyprus. See answer 12 above.

14. If I qualify for legal aid, will it cover any review I might make following the trial?

The granting of legal aid applies for any instance of jurisdiction (first instance or appeal). Where, for example, legal aid was granted to you during the first instance procedure, then you are entitled to a grant of legal aid in any other procedure that follows, in relation to your case. In an appeal, however the issue of a new certificate is requested, after a new written application is made.

15. If I qualify for legal aid, can it be withdrawn before the end of the trial (or even after the trial)?

The certificate for legal aid may be withdrawn by the Court ex officio or after an application made by the Office of the Attorney-General where there is substantial change in relation to your personal and financial data. Withdrawal of the issued certificate, does not affect the right of the lawyer for remuneration, for his/hers services offered until the date of withdrawal.

16. If I do not qualify for legal aid, can I appeal against the decision?

A right of appeal against a decision for not issuing a certificate for legal aid exists, on the basis of the basic rule, that all decisions of the courts are subject to appeal.

17. Further information

For further information you can contact the Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court by telephoning 22865716 (for callers in Cyprus) and +35722865716 (for callers outside Cyprus) or in the Legal Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Justice and public Order by telephoning 22805922 or 22808946 (for callers in Cyprus) and +357 22805922 or +35722805946 (for callers outside Cyprus).