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The purpose of the legal aid law is to provide persons in respect of civil and criminal matters where those persons are financially unable to secure legal services from their own resources.

The following table outlines the documents required to be submitted when applying for financial assistance or when circumstances of an applicant, recipient, or household change.

*Other documents may need to be submitted as relevant to the application.

Legal Aid Documents This is necessary to provide the department with information about the applicant and household. These forms are to be completed and specified.	□ Application Form
Proof of Identification This is necessary for all members of the household who are seeking financial assistance. One of the following documents is required with Application for each member of the household	 Driver's License Passport Voter's Card
Court Documents This is necessary to provide the department with information about the applicant.	 Copy of charges/or indictment (case number) Copy of any court documents served or filed to date and next court date.
Proof of Income This is necessary for all adult Members of the household to determine eligibility. All the relevant following documents are required to be submitted with the application.	 Salary/Wages The most recent pay slips covering the last four -week period prior to the application must be submitted for all working adults including spouse. Job letters are acceptable but must indicate earnings and deductions within the last four-week period. Rental Income This must be submitted with a copy of the valid lease agreement and proof of identification for the tenant. Maintenance A copy of court order or a signed letter from the person providing maintenance will need to be submitted. Where a

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	letter is provided the identification of the person paying the
	maintenance must also be provided.
	□ Self- Employed or Business Owners
	In this circumstance, proof of income earned through the business, Trade and Business License, register of directors and officers, bank statements, financial statements, pay slips where the household member received a salary from the business, contracts, confirmation of whether others are employed by the business or other relevant business documents must be submitted.
	□ Donation Letter
	If you are receiving donations from an individual or organization, they must provide a letter specifying the amount and purpose of the donation.
	□ Other Income and/or bonus
	Submit recent documentation for all other income, such as statements/pay slips for pension, social security, overseas veteran's, or seafarer's ex-gratia and employee bonus.
Proof of Expense and Liabilities	□ Mortgage or Bank Loan
This is necessary for all adult members of the household to determine eligibility and the level of service provided. All of the relevant following documents or others are required to be submitted with the application	Submit a copy of the current statement or loan profile from the bank covering the last six-month period.
	□ Rent
	A copy of the signed lease agreement will need to be submitted. If residing with others then a signed letter of accommodation indicating you reside there and what your contribution toward the household expense is, if any.
	□ Maintenance
	A copy of court order or a signed letter from the person receiving the maintenance will need to be submitted. Where a letter is provided, the identification of the person receiving the maintenance must also be provided.
	□ Bills and Invoices
	Copies of all official bills or invoices for the most recent month, such as utility bills, post-paid phone bill, credit card

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	statement, or pre-school invoice should be submitted. Receipts are only acceptable for money transfers but not any other expense.
	Employed Staff
	Letters of employment and work permit (where applicable) for staff employed by the household, such as helpers or nannies are to be submitted.
	□ Not Employed
	If unemployed, specific details on last employment (and evidence of termination/resignation/redundancy provided) and efforts to obtain employment must be provided. If registered at the national Work Force Development Agency – confirmation of the same. If receiving any other Government Assistance – details provided.
	□ Other Expenses
	It is necessary to submit proof of expense for all documents except food, transportation (gas, bus fare, etc.), propane, laundry, or prepaid telephone (top-up).
Proof of Assets	□ Land Documents
This is necessary for all adult members of the household to determine eligibility. All the relevant following documents or others are required To be submitted with the application.	If any household members have land or property, they must submit a land register and property title with the application. If property is registered in the name of a company or non-profit organization, you will need to provide a signed lease agreement, photo identification with signature, trade, and business license or NPO certificate, register of directors, and authorized signatory list with identification for those on the list.
	□ Other Assets
	Proof of other assets owned by adult members of the household must be submitted, including vehicle registration or other relevant documents.

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Banking information	□ Applicant's bank/credit union statements/transaction report (for all accounts; savings, checking, term deposit, loan, credit card, trading as and business accounts, share accounts and investment/trust accounts. Local and foreign bank/credit union accounts (minimum 3 months)
	□ If incarcerated, then banks' details prior to incarceration must be provided to the best of their ability-listing all accounts details of last financial institution.
	□ Spouse's bank statement/ transaction report to also be provided (same as details above)
	□ If self – employed, copies of business bank account (3 months) registration and business details required.
Proof of Relation	□ Birth Certificate
	This is to be submitted for all dependents in the household.
	Guardianship documents
	This is required where a non-biological dependent is in the household. It could be a residence order, DCFS letter, adoption order, letter from biological parents, or other relevant document.
	□ Marriage Certificate or Divorce Decree
	This is to be submitted if the applicant or any member of the household has ever been married or divorced.
Documents for Service This is necessary for applications submitted for specific services	□ In civil proceedings, an outline, opinion, medical reports, or letter from Attorney on the prospects of success of the claim.
	□ For civil proceedings a cover letter explaining why legal aid is required.
	Document supporting exceptional Circumstances.
	□ Any agreement, contract or evidence to support your claim.