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# News Release

## **Free Legal Assistance Available to Eligible Missourians**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Free legal assistance is available to Missourians who need help with disaster-related issues such as home repair contracts and contractors; life, medical and property insurance claims; FEMA applications and appealing FEMA decisions.

Missouri residents can call **800-829-4128** to leave a message about legal issues arising from recently sustained damage from severe storms, flooding and tornadoes that occurred from April 29 through July 5. Calls will be returned during the week of July 29. When leaving a message, be sure to include your name, phone number and county of residence.

Disagreements often result after a disaster. Lawyers have the training and skills to help navigate those issues. Legal issues may include help securing other government benefits available to Missourians as well as counseling on landlord-tenant issues and mortgage foreclosures.

Disaster-related legal assistance can also include:

- replacement of wills and other important legal documents lost or destroyed in the disaster;
- assistance with consumer protection issues such as price gouging and avoiding contractor scams in the rebuilding process.

Consultations with attorneys are confidential.

The 20 counties designated for FEMA Individual Assistance are: **Andrew, Atchison, Boone, Buchanan, Carroll, Chariton, Cole, Greene, Holt, Jackson, Jasper, Lafayette, Lincoln, Livingston, Miller, Osage, Pike, Platte, Pulaski and St. Charles** counties.

The toll-free disaster hotline is a partnership between the Missouri Bar Association, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and FEMA.

Follow recovery updates in Missouri on Twitter [@MOSEMA](#) and [@FEMARegion7](#). Get the latest information at [Missouri's recovery website](#) and [FEMA's disaster webpage](#).

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*FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after disasters.*