



The **Housing Justice Project (HJP)** is a homelessness prevention program providing accessible, volunteer-based legal services to tenants facing eviction in King County. HJP is managed through Pro Bono Services at the King County Bar Association. HJP is the only court-based, housing-related legal services program in Washington that provides direct, immediate and real-time client representation to low-income residential tenants facing eviction in King County.

**ELDERLY TENANTS & HOUSING** (Mental and physical illness in addition to other natural changes that can come with age, make it difficult for elderly tenants to meet their lease obligations.)

Tips for Advocates:

- **Identify your client.** Often, an elderly person will be accompanied by a caregiver, family member, or close friend.
- **Slow down, speak up, write it down.** Not all elderly clients will be hearing impaired or have trouble processing information; however, keeping background noise to a minimum, enunciating words, avoiding legal-ese, and providing a written “to-do” list is beneficial to any client.
- **Enlist the help of others.** Lawyers are not social workers, psychologists, or physicians; in order to effectively serve an elderly client, a lawyer may have to work as part of an interdisciplinary team.
- **Preserve confidentiality.** Elderly clients, especially those suffering from age-related psychological issues, can be suspicious and distrustful. Reassure the client of the confidentiality of the relationship and fully explain the need and impact of any Releases of Information you ask the client to sign.

Fortunately, there are services in place to help seniors maintain their housing. Senior Services, a Washington State non-profit devoted to positive aging, manages an online resource database of programs that offer chore services, case management, low-cost housing, assistance with benefits, and other basic needs assistance. Many programs are covered by Medicare or free to Medicaid/DSHS assistance recipients. For more information on senior resources visit: [http://www.seniorservices.org/getting\\_assistance/all\\_programs/information\\_and\\_assistance.aspx](http://www.seniorservices.org/getting_assistance/all_programs/information_and_assistance.aspx). For more information on The Housing Justice Project, call (206) 267-7090 (English) or (206) 267-7091 (Español) or visit: <http://www.kcba.org/pbs/HJP.aspx>.