



Hawthorne Community Center, Near Westside

### The Consumer Advocacy Project Mission

Protecting the consumer rights of individual residents of the Near Westside community and planting the seeds for a secure future.



This Project was made possible by a grant from the Office of the Indiana Attorney General as well as Legal Services Corporation & United Way funding.

## Who We Are

### Indiana Legal Services, Inc.

Ensuring equal access to justice in Indiana through free legal representation and advice to low-income individuals in civil matters

#### Contact Us

Phone: 317-631-9410

Web: [www.indianalegalservices.org](http://www.indianalegalservices.org)

### Hawthorne Community Center

Helping individuals and families increase their net worth and reach their fullest potential on the Near Westside of Indianapolis

#### Contact Us

Phone: 317-637-4312

Web: [www.hawthornecenter.org](http://www.hawthornecenter.org)

Address: 70 N. Mount St., Indianapolis



ILS/5-2016

DO YOU HAVE A LEGAL  
ISSUE AFFECTING  
YOUR FINANCIAL  
HEALTH? ASK ABOUT  
THE CONSUMER  
ADVOCACY PROJECT



A joint project of Indiana  
Legal Services, Inc. &  
Hawthorne Community Center





## The Consumer Advocacy Project

began in 2014 with Indiana Legal Services, Inc. (ILS) partnering with a Center for Working Families on the Near Eastside of Indianapolis. In early 2016, ILS expanded the project by partnering with Hawthorne Community Center on the Near Westside.

ILS provides one-on-one free legal consultation and legal assistance to individuals\* working with the Center's financial coaching staff to meet their financial goals. In addition, ILS provides consumer education through brochures and through live legal educational clinics, with support from the Center.

ILS also works closely with the Heartland Pro Bono Council, which connects low-income individuals with civil legal needs to private attorneys who represent individuals *pro bono* (free or a reduced rate). When ILS cannot assist directly, ILS can refer individuals with certain legal issues who meet specific qualifications to Heartland.

The Indianapolis-based ILS attorney is available at the Hawthorne Community Center to help individuals with legal issues involving consumer rights and legal barriers to employment. The attorney is on-site at the Center each week on most Monday afternoons.

Please **contact your financial coach** at the Center to set an appointment with the ILS attorney. If you do not have an assigned financial coach, please request one at the Center.



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### Consumer Advocacy Project

#### Client Feedback

“I would recommend this service to anyone who needs legal advice.”

“I don't know what I would have done without that help; I wouldn't have been able to pay a [private] lawyer.”

“This program was basically a lifesaver for me.”

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### Legal Assistance

We provide legal assistance with consumer law issues and legal barriers to employment, such as:

- Bankruptcy
- Credit reporting errors
- Criminal record expungement petitions
- Debt collection
- Federal tax debt & related state tax debt
- Foreclosure prevention
- Predatory lending: pay day/ cash advances, pawn shop, other short-term loans
- Repossessions
- Specialized driving privileges petitions
- Wage garnishment

