

Who we are

The AIDS Legal Network (ALN) is a human rights organisation committed to the promotion, protection and realisation of fundamental rights and freedoms of people living with, and affected by, HIV and AIDS.

What we do

- **WORKSHOPS:** Facilitate legal literacy and human rights education and training on HIV and AIDS and the law, including Paralegal Training and Training-for-Trainers
- **LEGAL ADVICE DESK:** Respond to infringements of human rights
- **NETWORKING, CAMPAIGNS, AWARENESS RAISING:** Promote behavioural change and address discriminatory attitudes and practices ensuring the dignity of all people living with, and affected by, HIV and AIDS
- **LOBBYING/ADVOCACY:** Promote provincial, national and international law reform to advance the rights of people living with, and affected by, HIV and AIDS
- **PUBLICATIONS:** *ALQ*, the newsletter of the ALN; Training and Resource Manuals, such as *HIV/AIDS & The Law* and *HIV/AIDS and Human Rights*, as well as various information leaflets and flyers

Contact

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HIV & Social Security



Legal Advice Desk

HIV & Social Security

Right

Everyone has the right to have access to social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance.

(Section 27(1c), Bill of Rights, the Constitution of South Africa)

Interpretation of Right

Everyone has the right to have access to social security and/or social assistance in order to have her/his basic needs met. Government has a duty to budget for social security and/social assistance in order to enable people to meet their basic needs.



Legal Advice Desk

Legislation

Social Assistance Act (No 13 of 2004)

The Social Assistance Act is purposed to regulate the access to social security and social assistance, as well as determine the mechanisms and eligibility criteria to access social grants, such as the Disability Grant. No one can be denied access to a social grant based on her/his HIV status.

Who can apply

Any person (18 and older) whose CD4 count is below 200 is eligible to apply for a Disability Grant.

Where to apply

The Department of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation (Welfare Office) processes applications and issues the grants.

How to apply

In order to qualify for a Disability Grant, the person has to provide:

- A medical certificate that confirms a CD4 count of 200 or below 200
- A bar-coded identity document or a certified copy thereof
- Proof of income and assets (i.e., receipts, salary slips)
- Proof of marital status (i.e., marriage certificate, divorce decree/certificate, death certificate of partner)

Take the documents to the Welfare office (Department of Social Services) and apply for a Disability Grant based on your HIV status/CD4 count

Make a request for *speedy processing* (this means that your application has to be processed and responded to *within 7 days* of receiving your application)

Who to contact for complaints

For more information and/or to report complaints contact your local Advice Office

Or the AIDS Legal Network

Tel: 021 447 8435

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