

Legal Aid in Armenia

Structure of the Legal Aid System:

Centralized national system

Legal aid is administered and provided by the state Office of Public Defense (ODP). Defense attorneys are employees of the ODP.

Armenia has no legislation exclusively dealing with legal aid; but the right to publicly subsidized legal aid is mentioned in Article 20 of Armenia's constitution.

Legal aid providers are members of the Armenian Bar Association.

Services:

Armenia does not adhere to merits test for eligibility for legal aid – the seriousness of an offense is not considered when determining eligibility. Armenia is the only country in the region not to offer *ex officio* legal aid for serious offenses.

Losing party in legal proceedings must bear some of the costs of legal aid.

As of 2013, there were only 36 public defenders working for the ODP in Armenia.

Spending on Legal Aid:

Data not available.

Sources:

UNDP Report: "Accessing Justice: Legal Aid in Central Asia and the South Caucasus" (2013)
www.eurasia.undp.org/content/dam/rbec/docs-/LegalAid_SouthCaucasus&CentralAsia.pdf