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**FOR RELEASE AT WILL**

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**LATEST LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON AVAILABILITY OF  
FREE COPIES OF MEDICAL RECORDS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW  
PUBLIC CHARGE RULE**

EDISON — The latest newsletter from Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) provides details on how low-income residents can obtain at no cost copies of their medical records, as well as key points on whether a revised immigration law affects SNAP (food stamp) recipients.

The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” is accessible online at [www.lsnjlaw.org](http://www.lsnjlaw.org) and is available at all New Jersey Legal Services offices.

The newsletter notes that under a new state law, most low-income residents now can get copies of their medical records for free, rather than paying up to \$1 per page. The no-cost option applies to people making under 250 percent of the federal poverty level, which, for example, amounts to \$31,900 for an individual or \$54,300 for a family of three. People eligible for state or federal programs automatically qualify for the free copying service.

Regarding food stamps, the publication makes points out most immigrant households receiving SNAP are not affected by the newly-expanded “public charge” law. That rule — its enforcement was cleared by the U.S. Supreme Court in January — is aimed at reducing eligible green card and visa holders, by redefining what makes them likely to depend on public assistance and be considered a burden.

The article points out, though, it is not a replacement for advice from an immigration attorney and therefore anyone applying to bring a family member to the U.S. or seeking to adjust immigration status should consult an immigration lawyer.

The latest LSNJ newsletter also includes information on how homeowners may be able to recover some of the money or equity lost on a home that has been through a property tax foreclosure.

Additionally, there is information dealing with the upcoming Census and an article about changes being implemented by the IRS to improve taxpayer services.

*Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of five independent non-profit corporations and has been providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties for more than 50 years. Since its inception, LSNJ has provided representation in more than 2.4 million cases.*

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