

Questions?

Contact the American Samoa Bar Association's Disaster Legal Services Clinic at (684) 258-9830.



Disclaimer: This is pamphlet for informational purposes only. None of the information contained herein is intended to constitute, nor does it constitute, legal advice and should not be relied on as such, and none of the information necessarily reflects the opinions of the American Samoa Bar Association ("ASBA") or its member attorneys. The information is not guaranteed to be correct, complete, or current. We make no warranty, express or implied, about the accuracy or reliability of the information in this pamphlet, particularly as circumstances change after publication. This pamphlet is general in nature and may not apply to particular factual or legal circumstances. Member attorneys of the ASBA render legal advice only after compliance with certain procedures for accepting clients and when it is legally and ethically permissible to do so. Readers seeking to act upon any of the information contained in this pamphlet are urged to seek individual advice from their own legal counsel. None of the information in this pamphlet which relates to or incorporates federal income tax information was intended or written for anyone to rely upon for any purpose, including avoiding penalties under applicable tax codes. Only formal, written tax opinions in compliance with applicable tax code standards may form the basis of such reliance. This pamphlet is not intended to create and does not create an attorney-client relationship between you and any ASBA attorney. An attorney-client relationship with an ASBA attorney cannot be formed by reading the information in this pamphlet.



Disaster Legal Services (684) 258-9830 Criminal Issues

Can the police do anything about earthquake and/or tsunami-related crimes occurring on or after September 29, 2009?

Yes. Many victims of the earthquake and tsunami experienced criminal theft, looting, assault, trespass and other illegal activity following the events of September 29, 2009. As of mid-November of 2009, however, no reports of such crimes have been filed.

The Department of Public Safety can investigate such crimes and arrest those responsible. The Department of the Legal Affairs can then charge the responsible individuals with those crimes and prosecute them.

You may reach the Department of Public Safety at (684) 633-1111.

I have been charged with a crime arising out of the September 29, 2009 earthquake and/or tsunami – what do I do?

Low income defendants charged with misdemeanors and more serious offenses may be provided free legal representation by the Office of the Public Defender. If this applies to you, an attorney will be provided to you at your initial appearance in court. If you wish to contact the Office of the Public Defender *after* you have been charged, call (684) 633-1286.