



Florida Elder Law RISK DETECTOR

Where can the Florida Elder Law Risk Detector be accessed?

FloridaElderLaw.org, which you can bookmark on your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

What is the Florida Elder Law Risk Detector?

The Risk Detector helps service providers (community partners) evaluate potential risks to a senior's well-being and flags potential legal issues. In a 10-20 minute evaluation, the service provider completes an interview with their client using the clear and concise prompts on the app to identify the senior's possible risk areas.

These risk areas include housing, debt, health care, financial exploitation, and elder abuse.

The Risk Detector then produces an assessment report about level of risk and identifies red flags. The completed report is automatically sent to both the community partner agency and, if the senior consents, the local Legal Aid program in the senior's county. This serves as a detailed referral to Legal Aid for follow-up with the senior applicant within 2 business days. The Risk Detector is available to use on computer and mobile devices and offers intuitive service.

Why use the Florida Elder Law Risk Detector?

The Risk Detector guides the service provider through a comprehensive evaluation of a senior's needs with the hope of resolving future legal problems for elders. The Risk Detector also saves the senior an extra step by directly sending the report to a local Legal Aid program for follow up, and will facilitate an ongoing relationship between community partner agencies and local Legal Aid programs.

If the senior would prefer to contact civil legal services on their own, please give them the number for the **Florida Senior Legal Helpline: 1-888-895-7873**

How to Use

The service provider is the only person completing the questions in the app, using information the senior provides. The service provider explains that any information provided in the Risk Detector evaluation will be sent to Legal Aid for follow-up, confirms the senior's consent for the referral based on the provider's agency protocols, and emphasizes that this evaluation does not provide legal advice or establish an attorney-client relationship.

The service provider will ask the senior the listed questions but should feel free to re-phrase the questions in their own words. Any inputs provided should be based on both the senior's statements AND the provider's observations and interpretations of the senior's situation.

It is important to try to cover every question in the app since the repetition may elicit a memory that was not immediately apparent for the senior. This tool seeks to identify known, unknown, and unexpressed risks to the senior's well-being.

Standard and Express Versions

The service provider may choose between either the standard or express versions of the app. Depending on the number of possible issues, the express version may take 10-15 minutes, while the standard version may be closer to 10-20 minutes.

The standard version offers more detailed questions and allows documents and photos to be uploaded that may help Legal Aid provide services more accurately and immediately. However, the express version seeks to accommodate service provider's time limitations.

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Follow-Up Procedure

Legal Aid will follow up with the client within 2 business days of a submitted assessment. The senior applicant will be contacted directly by Legal Aid staff. The senior applicant will be screened for income and case eligibility. Additionally, Legal Aid staff will screen for any conflicts of interest. If the senior applicant is not eligible or a conflict exists, Legal Aid will try to refer the applicant to an agency or organization that may be able to assist.

If the case is an immediate emergency, please contact Legal Aid directly and do not use the Risk Detector. Contact information can be found at FloridaElderLaw.org.



Is There Anytime The Risk Detector Should Not Be Used?

You should not use the Risk Detector app with the following types of clients:

- Clients without decision-making ability,
- Clients who do not want to be contacted by Legal Aid,
- Clients with immediate emergency needs, or
- Clients with concerns that may be better suited for referral to a social worker or case manager.

Attorney-Client Relationship

This application does not provide legal advice and its use does not form an attorney-client relationship between any parties. The tool can be used with any senior after obtaining their express permission to 1) conduct the guided interview and 2) share the report with Legal Aid in order to facilitate the referral for any issues identified.



Confidentiality

Legal Aid receives all information submitted in the report, which is sent to a single email and then referred to the appropriate screening or legal intake staff. The participating community partner agency should handle this application according to their standard referral policy.

The person making the referral must confirm that the contact information the client provides is safe to use for Legal Aid follow-up. If it is not, please provide the client's preferred safe mode of contact or the service provider's contact information instead.

Please use professional discretion when determining whether certain questions are appropriate if another person is with the senior during the screening process. It may be necessary to follow-up in private with the senior.

To access the Florida Elder Law Risk Detector, go to FloridaElderLaw.org and click on 'Advocate'.

For more information about legal services for seniors, visit:

FloridaElderLaw.org

