



JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

Disaster News



Mississippi Emergency Management Agency – Federal Emergency Management Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEMA-DR-1443-MS-NR48

Date: December 9, 2002

MEDIA CONTACTS: MEMA - 601-960-9039 or 601-953-3622
FEMA - 662-329-7570

Legal Help Available to Tornado Survivors

COLUMBUS, MS—Mississippians affected by the November tornados can get disaster-related legal assistance through a cooperation between the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi State Bar and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The toll-free number for free legal advice is 800-682-6423, Monday through Friday, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Callers are requested to identify themselves as disaster related applicants in order to receive more immediate service.

Individuals may consult with a Mississippi licensed attorney—free of charge—regarding disaster-related legal issues including insurance claims, home repair contracts, consumer protection matters, landlord and tenant concerns, mortgage foreclosure and debt collection problems. Advice or referrals also are provided for replacing wills, drafting powers of attorney and other important legal documents that may have been damaged or lost in the tornado.

Information on disaster recovery is available at the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) through Tuesday, December 17, in the former Lowe's Home Supply at 2320 Highway 45 North in Columbus. The DRC is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Anyone affected by the disaster should call the FEMA toll-free teleregistration number at **800-621-3362** or for the hearing and speech impaired, TTY, **800-462-7585**. Once the DRC closes, help is still available at those same numbers for the FEMA Information Helpline.