

**WE ARE PART OF THE THE ESSEX
ADVICELINE TELEPHONE SERVICE
WHICH IS AVAILABLE MONDAY TO
FRIDAY 10.00AM TO 4.00PM**

0344 477 0808

**Epping Branch,
50a Hemnall Street,
Epping, Essex CM16 4LS**

Closed for redevelopment

Due to reopen in 2015

**Waltham Abbey Town Hall (side entrance)
Highbridge Street, Waltham Abbey,
Essex EN9 1DE**

Monday	<i>CLOSED except for Pre-booked Appointments</i>
Tuesday	<i>10 am to 1 pm Open DROP IN</i>
Wednesday	<i>CLOSED except for Pre-booked Appointments</i>
Thursday	<i>10 am to 1 pm Open DROP IN</i>
Friday	<i>CLOSED except for Pre-booked Appointments</i>

If we believe that your enquiry is likely to require several interviews with you or on-going negotiation with an outside agency such as your employer then we may decide to assign a "case worker" to your enquiry. This will normally be an adviser with special expertise in the required area, and the case worker will introduce herself or himself to you.

If no case worker has been assigned to your enquiry then we will expect you to see the first available adviser on your next visit to us unless you have made an appointment to see a named adviser.

None of our advisers works full time at the bureau, and we all take breaks from time to time, so if you need urgent assistance then we may ask you to see whoever is available even though there is a case worker assigned to your enquiry.

Getting messages to us

On days when we are short-staffed or unusually busy then we may be unable to answer every phone call.

If you need to get a message to us, but cannot reach us by phone, then we suggest that you either call round during our opening hours or write to us.

Things we do not do

Sadly there are a few things that we cannot do for you, mainly for legal reasons. These include:

- We will not give you investment advice nor will we help you with your tax return
- We will not help you write your will
- We will not help you to draw up a separation or child maintenance agreement. We will not sign your passport application but we can help you find someone to do the job



Epping Forest District Citizens Advice Bureau

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct

Authority FRN: 617601

Charity Registration Number 1118465

Company Registration Number 5852220

Independent, Free, Confidential and Impartial Advice

**Please note that we can only see clients who
live or work in the EFDC area.**

**Appointments can only be made after an
initial assessment by an adviser at one of
our Drop in sessions which operate on a first
come, first served basis.**

**Loughton Branch,
St Mary's Parish Centre, High Road,
Loughton IG10 1BB**

Monday	<i>9.30 am to 1 pm Open DROP IN 2.00 pm to 4 pm Pre-booked Appointments only</i>
Tuesday	<i>9.30 am to 1 pm Open DROP IN 2.00 pm to 4 pm Pre-booked Appointments only</i>
Wednesday	<i>9.30 am to 1 pm Open DROP IN 2.00 pm to 4 pm Pre-booked Appointments only</i>
Thursday	<i>CLOSED except for Pre-booked Appointments</i>
Friday	<i>9.30 am to 1 pm Open DROP IN</i>



Our Aims

To provide the advice people need for the problems they face.

To improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives.

Research & Campaigns

If a problem keeps cropping up, or if someone's situation seems particularly unfair, we report this to Citizens Advice who collect details of such matters from across the country and uses these to produce national reports.

These reports form the basis for discussions with and recommendations to local and central government and major companies.

Our Service

The service that we provide depends on the precise needs of the client and the type of issue that they have raised. Many matters are resolved in a single visit to the bureau by providing the client with the information that they need and identifying their options for dealing with the issue.

Subject to resources, we may be able to do further work for clients as follows:

1. Where appropriate we draft letters for our clients to send in an attempt to resolve an issue, and if the adviser believes that it is appropriate to do so then we will make phone calls or write letters on the client's behalf.
2. We also help our clients to complete many types of official form, particularly the forms for sickness-related benefits such as Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment and Attendance Allowance, though assistance with these forms is by appointment only. We use on-line services wherever possible in order to reduce delays.
3. Our service is intended to enable and empower our clients to resolve their problems for themselves but in some specialist areas a specialist adviser will manage the client's case until it has been resolved.

Our Staff

Almost all of our advisers and administrative staff are volunteers who undertake to spend at least 8 hours per week working for the Bureau. Our advisers have all undergone training in each of the topics on which we provide advice.

Our Funding

We are an independent registered charity run by a trustee board of local people.

Epping Forest District Council provides most of our funding and we also receive an annual grant from Essex County Council

Who checks up on us?

We are a member of Citizens Advice (formerly the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux) which monitors the quality of both our service and our record keeping on a regular basis.

Helping us to help you

If you need advice on a document that you have received then it is essential to bring that document with you to your interview. This is especially true of court documents and letters from financial institutions such as banks and other lenders. In order to help you with a debt enquiry we must have details of all your debts.

If you have an enquiry about employment then your contract of employment, the letter offering you the job and your latest pay statement are all likely to be helpful if you still have them. Similarly if you have a complaint about goods or services then we will ask to see any order, receipt or guarantee that you have kept.

If you come by car then bear in mind that you may be with us for some time and that Waltham Abbey is frequently patrolled by traffic wardens. The Church car park at Loughton is only for the use of people using the Church.

In order for our appointments system to work properly clients must turn up on time. If you make a habit of

being late or missing appointments then we may decline to make further appointments for you.

Quite often an adviser will agree with you the follow-up actions that you promise to take. It is entirely your responsibility to take these follow-up actions and we will not normally send you any reminders.

Complaints if you wish to make a complaint about the CAB please ask a member of the team for a leaflet.

Our Advice Areas

- Utilities
- Travel
- Health
- Housing
- Civil Rights
- Immigration
- Benefits *
- Debt *
- Consumer Issues
- Discrimination
- Relationships
- Education
- Legal System
- Discrimination
- Employment *
- Tax

* We have specialist advisers for each of these advice areas but your initial interview will normally be with one of our generalist advisers who will make an appointment for you to see a specialist if they feel that it is appropriate to do so.

We regret that we can only see clients who live or work in the area covered by Epping Forest District Council. If you live in another local authority district we will try to find contact details for an advice agency that serves your district.

If you are unable to contact us but have access to the internet then you may find the information that you need at our own website www.efcab.org.uk or a web site run by the national charity Citizens Advice www.adviceguide.org.uk