

WHY RISK THE CONSEQUENCES?

It doesn't take a lot of water to cause thousands of dollars in damage to your home, including the flooring, walls, appliances, and furniture. Flood insurance can help you avoid the financial consequences of a flood and gain peace of mind. Not only does the National Flood Insurance Program offer flood insurance to those in areas at high risk of flooding, but to those in moderate- to low-risk areas as well. The cost of a policy depends on your flood risk. For all but a small percentage of very high-risk properties, flood insurance is surprisingly affordable. For example, if your home is in a moderate- to low-risk area, you may qualify for a Preferred Risk Policy that can cost as little as \$129 a year.

Legal Services of North Florida Offices:

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www.LSNF.org



Flood Insurance Do I Need It?



LSNF provides free legal assistance to eligible low-income persons in civil matters. Call your local LSNF office for further information. This brochure is for general education only. If you have specific questions, see an attorney. This brochure was developed by LSNF by referencing FEMA website and educational materials.



Legal Services
of NORTH FLORIDA



Flooding Can Happen Anywhere... Don't Wait Until a Flood is Imminent!

If you wait until a flood is on its way, you will be too late. In most cases, it takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect. To assess your flood risk, find an agent, and get more information, visit FloodSmart.gov or call 1-800-427-2419.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE IS OFTEN NOT AVAILABLE

THE RISK IS REAL

Everyone lives in a place that could flood. In high-risk areas, you have a 1 in 4 chance of experiencing a flood over the life of a 30-year mortgage. But the truth is you can live miles away from water and still be at risk of flooding. Nearly 25% of flood insurance claims come from moderate- to low-risk areas. It doesn't take a major body of water, or even a major storm, to cause a flood. Anything from new development to slow-moving rainstorms can cause flooding. Most homeowner's insurance does not cover flood damage even though floods are the most common natural disasters in the United States.

Some people think they don't need flood insurance because they believe Federal disaster assistance will come to their aid. But floods are not always declared a Federal disaster. And when they are, aid may only be a loan, which must be paid back with interest. If you do qualify for other aid, it may not be enough to fix your home to its original condition. On the other hand, flood insurance pays for all covered losses. You can cover your home's structure for up to \$250,000 and its contents for up to \$100,000. Structural and contents coverage for businesses are

available up to \$500,000. Don't count on others to financially protect your home or business. Take the initiative to protect your investment yourself.

