



**Centar za mir, pravne savjete i psihosocijalnu pomoć – Vukovar**  
**Center for Peace, Legal Advice and Psycho-social Assistance – Vukovar**

Fra. Antuna Tomaševića 32, 32000 Vukovar, Croatia tel/fax: +385 (0)32 413-319; tel: +385 (0)32 413-317  
E-mail: centar-za-mir@vk.t-com.hr Web-page: www.center4peace.org

---

C-48-12/09

Vukovar, 17 December 2009

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
DIRECTORATE FOR EUROPEAN UNION AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
ZAGREB

**SUBJECT: Opinion on the final draft of the free legal aid request form**

The final draft of the free legal aid request form contains no significant changes and is basically the same as the last request form downsized from seven to four pages with its content unchanged, except for the part related to data on the legal matter which has been simplified.

The request form continues to be over-complicated, complex and vague to beneficiaries. We believe that beneficiaries will require further assistance by free legal aid providers in filling-out requests, which is additionally bureaucratizing and slows down the entire process. We believe this is contrary to the aim of the Free Legal Aid Act and that swift, efficient, impartial and available legal aid must be secured for vulnerable categories of citizens.

We hold the opinion that filling-out free legal aid requests in order to receive legal aid is an unnecessary bureaucratic formality and that free legal aid beneficiaries should be facilitated easier access to the law. In regards to primary legal aid we propose annulment of free legal aid requests and order forms, which would accelerate the procedures and downsize expenses and misunderstandings.

Center for Peace Vukovar:  
Ankica Mikić, president of the Center