

■ **HARVESTERS' LIEN LAW**

TERMS: Any person who harvests grain or other crops, by hand or by machine, has a legal right to a portion of the value of the crops involved in the event the farm operator or landowner fails or refuses to pay the laborer's wages.

No later than 10 days after the work is finished, a worker who has not been paid full wages for harvest labor performed for the owner of the crop must notify the owner via certified mail that a claim — known as a "lien" — will be filed within 20 days. Within those 20 days, the worker must submit a claim to the Secretary of State's office detailing the amount of unpaid wages, the crop or crops involved, the name of the farm owner, and related information. The lien must also be filed with the county clerk and recorder.

Using a private attorney or public legal service provider, the worker must then file suit in civil court to enforce the claim. The suit must commence within 3 months from the filing of the lien.

ENFORCEMENT: As noted above, these provisions are enforced in the civil courts.