



Help for Self-Represented Litigants

Need help with a legal problem? The Minnesota Judicial Branch offers support services through the Self-Help Centers and the Minnesota State Law Library.

Help from Self-Help Centers

At a [Self-Help Center](#) (SHC), you can get free legal information about common legal problems or help finding low-cost legal services. Legal information includes help with court forms, answers to general questions about court procedures, and other help to get you started on your case. There are many ways to get help:

- **Online Help Topics**

Visit www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics for basic information and forms on over 60 common legal problems such as small claims court, criminal expungement, divorce, restraining orders, child support, custody, name changes, and landlord and tenant matters.

- **Statewide Self-Help Center**

The Statewide Self-Help Center serves all counties in Minnesota by phone and email. Call center hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Contact us by phone at (651) 435-6535 or email (go to www.mncourts.gov/selfhelp and click on “Contact the Self-Help Center”).

- **Self-Help Center Workstations**

Almost all MN courthouses have self-help workstations with a desk, computer with internet access, printer, and phone that connects directly to the Statewide Self-Help Center. Use the workstations to find legal information, print court forms, use online tools to help complete court forms, and talk with SHC staff. For more information, call (651) 435-6535.

- **Self-Help Center In-Person Locations**

Ramsey County has a Self-Help Service Center. It is located at the Ramsey County Courthouse in St. Paul at 15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Room 190. For more information, call (651) 266-5125.

Hennepin County has two Self-Help Centers in Minneapolis: one at the Family Justice Center located at 110 South 4th Street and one at the Government Center at 300 South 6th Street. For more information, call (651) 478-8757.

The 10th District (Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright counties) has a Self-Help Center with walk-in hours at different courthouse locations. For more information, call (763) 760-6699.

Please note: Staff cannot give legal advice or conduct legal research for you. There is no attorney-client privilege of any information between you and Self-Help Center staff. Self-Help Center staff are not responsible for the outcome of your case.

Help From Minnesota State Law Library

The Minnesota State Law Library provides legal information services to everyone with reference librarians to help find legal information and provide referrals for organizations offering legal advice. The library also offers free legal clinics for people appealing a case to the Minnesota Court of Appeals or Supreme Court, unemployment appeals, and probate.

Services are available in person, by phone, email, and chat Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visit www.mn.gov/law-library for information on visiting the law library, to “Ask a Librarian” a question, and find a list of legal referrals for each county in the state. The website also has information on over 300 legal topics and an archive of Minnesota appellate court opinions and briefs.

Please note: The Minnesota State Law Library provides legal information services to all. As librarians, they cannot interpret laws, explain whether something is “legal,” or otherwise provide legal advice.



Resources for Legal Advice and Representation

Civil Legal Aid Programs

www.lawhelpmn.org

This website offers a statewide online directory to search for free or low-cost civil legal services based on your location and/or legal issue. You can choose the [LawHelpMN Guide link](#) to go through a short interview and get specific legal information and referrals or [search providers and clinics](#) directly.

Estate & Elder Law Services – Volunteer of America

www.voamnwi.org

Assists clients with wills, trusts, estate planning, probate, power of attorney, health care directives, guardianship, conservatorship, special needs trusts, Medical assistance planning, and real estate matters. Individuals may qualify to get services at reduced rates based on monthly income and asset level. Basic wills and trusts are available at flat rate fees.

Volunteer Lawyers Network

www.vlnmn.org

Volunteer Lawyers Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting Minnesotans experiencing poverty with private lawyers in the state at no cost. Depending on the situation, these volunteers can provide advice at legal clinics, draft legal documents, or represent clients in court.

Minnesota Legal Advice Online

www.mnlegaladvice.org

On this website you can post a question and get free legal advice online from a lawyer. You can post questions at any time, but it may take a few days to be matched with a volunteer who can respond to your question. Income guidelines apply.

Minnesota Unbundled Law Project

www.mnunbundled.org

On this website you can complete an intake form to find a lawyer to work with you on certain parts of your case. This is known as unbundled representation or limited scope representation. You and the lawyer agree that you will do some of the tasks for your case, and the lawyer will do others. The lawyer bills you only for the parts of the case the lawyer handled. Legal areas include family, business, employment, real estate, benefits and administration, housing and landlord/tenant, wills, trusts, elder, and consumer protection and debt.

Minnesota State Bar Association

www.mnfindalawyer.com

The Minnesota State Bar Association maintains this website for searching their member directory to find a lawyer to hire. You can customize your search in many ways, including practice area, location, language, and fee structure.

Minnesota Lawyer Referral and Information Service

www.mnlawyerreferral.org

The Minnesota Lawyer Referral and Information Service (MNLRS) connects persons with legal issues to one of over 200 qualified private attorneys practicing in over 50 areas of law. Referral counselors can set up appointments with attorneys, provide general information about the legal process, and direct people to appropriate legal resources. Free legal consultations (30 minutes) are available.