

# Connecting Your Clients with Legal Aid In Minnesota

**Julie Olmsted, J.D.**

Outreach Coordinator | [Legal Services State Support](#)

[jolmsted@mnlegalservices.org](mailto:jolmsted@mnlegalservices.org)

651-432-4608

# Legal Services State Support

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- [LSSS](#) is a project of the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition (MLSC), an association of six Minnesota regional legal services programs.
- Improve access to justice for all Minnesotans by providing information, connections, and tools for the public and advocates.

# Mayo Clinic Outreach Project

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A grant from [Mayo Clinic](#), in partnership with [LSSS](#) and support from [The Landing](#).



Develop materials for community organizations to help clients spot legal needs and find resources.



Present statewide to address barriers in getting legal help for low-income Minnesotans.

# Overview

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What legal aid is, what it does and doesn't do



How to know whether something is a legal issue



Where to look and connect with help

# Legal Aid in Minnesota

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Free civil legal help for low-income residents (often county-based)



Information, advice, and/or representation to eligible people in need



Funded by national and state grants

# Legal Aid in Minnesota

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Criminal  
expungements

Divorce and child  
custody

Evictions

IRS tax issues

Debt collection  
and unfair loans

Domestic  
violence

Housing help

Public benefits

Disability-related  
cases

Elder assistance

Immigration and  
citizenship

... and more

# Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)\*

Most legal aid organizations have an eligibility criteria of 200% FPG or below

ANNUAL INCOME LIMITS							
Household Size	Annual Income Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG)	125% FPG	150% FPG	175% FPG	200% FPG	250% FPG	300% FPG
1	\$14,580	\$18,225	\$21,870	\$25,515	\$29,160	\$36,450	\$43,740
2	\$19,720	\$24,650	\$29,580	\$34,510	\$39,440	\$49,300	\$59,160
3	\$24,860	\$31,075	\$37,290	\$43,505	\$49,720	\$62,150	\$74,580
4	\$30,000	\$37,500	\$45,000	\$52,500	\$60,000	\$75,000	\$90,000
5	\$35,140	\$43,925	\$52,710	\$61,495	\$70,280	\$87,850	\$105,420
6	\$40,280	\$50,350	\$60,420	\$70,490	\$80,560	\$100,700	\$120,840
7	\$45,420	\$56,775	\$68,130	\$79,485	\$90,840	\$113,550	\$136,260
8	\$50,560	\$63,200	\$75,840	\$88,480	\$101,120	\$126,400	\$151,680
9	\$55,700	\$69,625	\$83,550	\$97,475	\$111,400	\$139,250	\$167,100
10	\$60,840	\$76,050	\$91,260	\$106,470	\$121,680	\$152,100	\$182,520

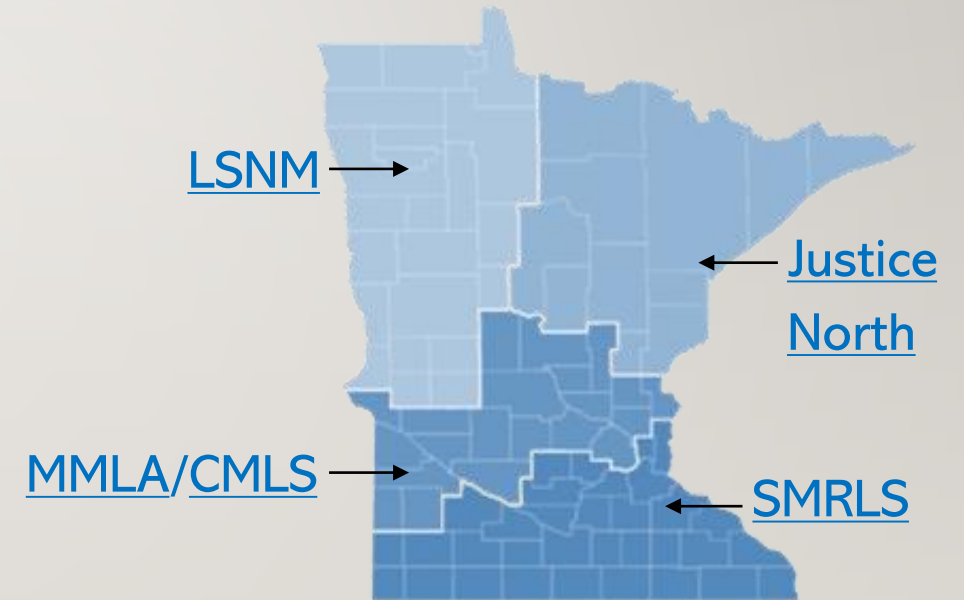
\*2023

# Legal Aid Organizations

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## Regional:

- [Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota](#) (LSNM)
- [Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid](#) (MMLA)
- [Central Minnesota Legal Services](#) (CMLS)
- [Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services](#) (SMRLS)
- [Justice North](#) (formerly LASNEM)
- [Legal Assistance of Olmsted County](#) (LAOC)
- [Legal Assistance of Dakota County](#) (LADC)
- [Volunteer Lawyers Network](#) (VLN)





# Legal Aid Organizations

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Plus specialty legal organizations like:

- [Minnesota Elder Justice Center](#)
- [Anishinabe Legal Services](#)
- [Rainbow Health Minnesota](#)
- [Standpoint](#)
- [ICWA Law Center](#)
- [HOME Line](#)
- [Neighborhood Justice Center](#)
- [Cancer Legal Care](#)
- [Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota](#)

# Coordinated Intake

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“No wrong door”

1-877-MY-MN-LAW

1-877-696-6529

Shifting the burden of finding legal services from the person in crisis to legal aid system

- Caller enters language (English, Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Karen) and zip code
- System routes callers to regional hub for eligibility screening

**Each region has a hub and one or more organizations that provide legal services:**

## **Northwest**

- [Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota](#), [Anishinabe Legal Services](#), [Volunteer Lawyers Network](#)

## **Northeast**

- [Justice North](#) (formerly LASNEM), [Volunteer Lawyers Network](#)

## **Southern**

- [Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services](#), [Legal Assistance of Olmsted County](#), [Legal Assistance of Dakota County](#), [Volunteer Lawyers Network](#)

## **Central**

- [Mid Minnesota Legal Aid](#), [Central Minnesota Legal Services](#), [Volunteer Lawyers Network](#)



# What If...

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## Legal aid doesn't handle the problem I'm having?

- You can still go to [LawHelpMN.org](https://www.lawhelpmn.org) and search for other organizations

## Everywhere I call has a waiting list?

- Use [fact sheets](#) and [self-help resources](#) as a starting point.

## My client's income is over 200% of the federal poverty guidelines?

- [LawHelpMN.org](https://www.lawhelpmn.org) or [MN Find a Lawyer](#)
- [Minnesota Lawyer Referral and Information Service \(MNLIRIS\)](#)



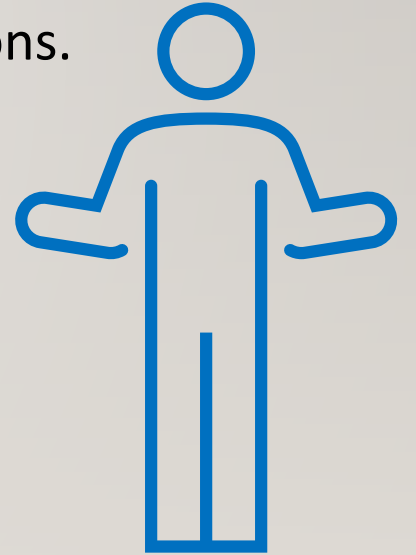
# What is a Legal Issue?

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**A problem that can be addressed by the law.**

Sometimes that means involving the courts or a government agency.

Sometimes there's overlap between lawyers and social service organizations.



# Legal Issues

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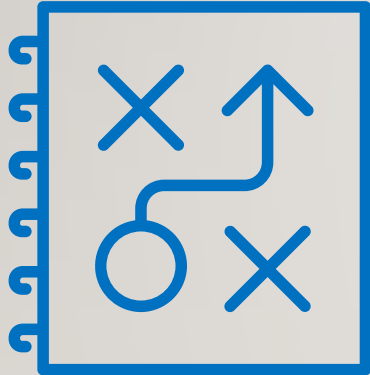
**The law is about more than suing someone or getting arrested.**



- Can my landlord evict me for asking them to do repairs?
- I'm struggling to pay my mortgage. What can I do?
- Can my boss fire me after I told her I have cancer?
- I think I'm being abused.
- These credit card companies won't stop calling me.
- Can I have an emotional support animal in my apartment?

# Legal Issues

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If you're not sure if something is a legal issue, go to [LawHelpMN](#) for a guide to common legal issues in Minnesota.

# Resource Organizations

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## Because not all issues are legal issues:

- [United Way 2-1-1](#): health/human service resources
- [MN Elder Justice Center](#): support and resources for older and vulnerable adults
- [Prepare + Prosper](#): provides access to quality tax and financial services
- [Disability Hub MN](#): helps navigate health, benefits, work, housing, and more
- [MNbenefits](#): apply for Minnesota benefits
- [Lutheran Social Service](#): financial counseling, housing support, and more
- [Portico HealthNet](#): MNsure navigation help, from application to enrollment
- [Senior Linkage Line](#): resources for older Minnesotans, including help understanding Medicare



# Ways to Learn & Help Clients

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[LawHelpMN.org](https://www.lawhelpmn.org)



[MNLegalAdvice.org](https://www.mnlegaladvice.org)



[Legal Kiosks](#)



[Justice Buses](#)

# LawHelpMN.org

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[LawHelpMN](#) helps Minnesotans solve legal problems:

- Self-Help Library & DIY Forms
- Providers & Clinics
- LawHelpMN Guide

- Links to court forms and other helpful websites
- Mirror sites in Spanish, Hmong, and Somali
- MN Find a Lawyer and bar referral organizations





## LawHelpMN Guide

Your guide to finding information and a lawyer.

What legal help do you need today?

- A lawyer
- To learn more about my rights or a legal problem
- Both a lawyer and information



### Advice You Can Trust

For more than 100 years, Minnesotans have gotten free legal help from Legal Aid offices. [More about us »](#)



### Providers and Clinics

[View all legal providers and clinics »](#)



### Find a legal kiosk today









[Find a kiosk »](#)



LSC's support for this website is limited to those activities that are consistent with LSC restrictions.



Quick Exit

 Abuse & Crime Victims	 Benefits & Health Care	 Criminal & Traffic	 Disability
 Estate Planning & Elder Law	 Family	 Housing	 Immigration
 Money & Debt	 Taxes	 Work & Unemployment	 Youth Rights & School

### Which of these apply to you?

- I am a renter (tenant)
- I am a homeowner
- I am a landlord
- I live in a mobile/manufactured home
- I have a different question about housing

« BACK

Start again?

## Get your results

Continue to see the resources we found based on your answers. After reviewing, you may also answer additional questions to find referrals for free or reduced fee legal services.

[Continue](#)

— or —

[« BACK](#)

[Start again?](#)

We found the following self-help resources that apply to your issue. If you think you need a lawyer, you can answer additional questions to find out if you qualify for free or reduced fee legal help. Click Continue below.

[Continue](#)

## Self Help Resources

Send Results



### Fact Sheets



[Notices to Vacate and Ending a Lease](#)

Source: Education for Justice

### Booklets



[Tenants' Rights in Minnesota](#)

This booklet helps people renting a place to live understand their legal rights. It is a general guide and is not meant to answer all questions. The laws talked about in this booklet change often and may or may not apply to your situation, so...

Source: Education for Justice

### Helpful Websites



[Landlords and Tenants: Rights and Responsibilities](#)

## We ask about income to find the best legal service options for you.

Most free and low cost services we find will ask you for proof of income. Not all services use income to decide who to help.

How many people live in your household?

Select people

Please select an item in the list.

What is your household income?

(before taxes):

\$

every


Select frequency

Annual Total:

**\$0.00**

**NEXT »**

## Legal Services:

Send Results  

You can send an online application to services that have an *Apply Online* button.

Filter your results:

Clinic   Lawyer Referral **\$\$\$**

### SMRLS Power-Up Legal Clinic

Come speak to an attorney. No criminal law issues. First-come, first-served basis. Last appointment at 3:30. Legal issues Including:

- Landlord/tenant or property
- Divorce, parenting time, custody, or other family law issues
- Debt collection
- Impounded car
- Purchase or service contracts
- Probate
- Employment
- Other civil legal issues

**Service areas:** Carver, Dakota, Ramsey, Scott, Washington

[Application Process \[+\]](#)

[Contact and Hours \[+\]](#)

**Income Limits:** 200%  
**Last Updated:** 05/11/23



### Minnesota Lawyer Referral and Information Service (MNLIRIS) Reduced Fee Program

The Reduced Fee Program provides full representation for a reduced fee to clients for most legal issues. Eligible clients are financially over-income for free legal services, but cannot afford the traditional fees of private attorneys. A private attorney is one that you pay to represent you. A Referral Counselor helps you determine if you qualify for this service. Attorneys are located in the Twin City metro area.

**Income Limits:** 250%  
**Type:** Lawyer Referral  
**Last Updated:** 02/28/22



[Providers & Clinics](#)

[Self Help Library](#)



## LawHelpMN Guide

Your guide to finding information and a lawyer.

What legal help do you need today?

- A lawyer
- To learn more about my rights or a legal problem
- Both a lawyer and information



### Advice You Can Trust

For more than 100 years, Minnesotans have gotten free legal help from Legal Aid offices. [More about us »](#)



### Providers and Clinics

[View all legal providers and clinics »](#)



### Find a legal kiosk today

[Find a kiosk »](#)



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Quick Exit

## What kind of help do you need?

Select a topic and we will guide you to self-help resources, followed by the option to match with free or reduced fee legal services.

[A few things to consider when using this guide >](#)

 Abuse & Crime Victims	 Benefits & Health Care	 Criminal & Traffic	 Disability
 Estate Planning & Elder Law	 Family	 Housing	 Immigration
 Money & Debt	 Taxes	 Work & Unemployment	 Youth Rights & School



Evictions And Lockouts	Ending A Lease	Security Deposit
Renter Safety	Low-Income Housing (Section 8 And Public Housing)	Eviction Expungement
Reasonable Accommodations	Mortgages, Foreclosures And Contract For Deed	Mobile Homes


Home : Housing : Evictions and Lockouts


## Evictions and Lockouts


Browse the resources below for this topic.


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### Fact Sheets

 **Evictions**  
**Read this in:** English, Spanish / Español, Hmong / Hmoob, Somali / Soomaali

 **Victims of Domestic Violence, Harassment, or Criminal Sexual Conduct: Your Rights in Breaking Your Lease**  
**Read this in:** English, Spanish / Español, Hmong / Hmoob, Somali / Soomaali

 **Public Housing Evictions**  
**Read this in:** English, Spanish / Español, Hmong / Hmoob, Somali / Soomaali


 **Condemnations**  
**Read this in:** English, Spanish / Español, Hmong / Hmoob, Somali / Soomaali

[- SHOW ALL -](#)


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### Other Resources


#### Booklets

 **Tenants' Rights in Minnesota**  
 This booklet helps people renting a place to live understand their legal rights. It is a general guide and is not meant to answer all questions. The laws talked about in this booklet change often and may or may not apply to your situation...  
**Source:** Education for Justice  
**Read this in:** English, Spanish / Español, Hmong / Hmoob, Somali / Soomaali

#### Do-It-Yourself Forms

 **Landlord and Tenant Problems: Minnesota Court Forms and Information**  
 Welcome! The Minnesota Courts have forms and information for landlord-tenant cases in Minnesota.  
**Source:** Minnesota Courts

#### Helpful Websites

 **Information on Remote Court Hearings**  
**Author:** Minnesota Courts  
 The Minnesota Judicial Branch is conducting some court hearings remotely using Zoom, WebEx, and/or VMR. This site includes information for attorneys, parties, and others who are required to

# Fact Sheets

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[Home](#) : [Fact Sheet List](#)

## Fact Sheet List

**Read this in:** [English](#), [Spanish / Español](#), [Hmong / Hmoob](#), [Somali / Soomaali](#)

### To read or print fact sheets

Click on the title of the fact sheet to open it in a new tab.

If you need to print a fact sheet, but you don't have a way to print it, [email us](#) and we can send you a printed copy.

<a href="#">Family</a>	+
<a href="#">Housing</a>	+
<a href="#">Money and Debt</a>	+
<a href="#">Work</a>	+
<a href="#">Seniors</a>	+
<a href="#">Government Benefits</a>	+
<a href="#">Immigration</a>	+
<a href="#">Youth</a>	+
<a href="#">Disability</a>	+
<a href="#">Taxes</a>	+
<a href="#">Criminal</a>	+

## Getting a Landlord to Make Repairs

Authored By: Education for Justice

Read this in: [English](#), [Spanish / Español](#), [Hmong / Hmoob](#), [Somali / Soomaali](#)

### View or print documents

- Getting a Landlord to Make Repairs (PDF)
- Tenant's Repair List – Request for Repairs (PDF)
- Rent Escrow Affidavit (PDF)

### Find free or low cost legal help

### You might also find these helpful

- Tenants' Rights in Minnesota
- Bed Bugs
- Utility Shut-Offs When Landlord Owes the Bill

This fact sheet talks about what you can do if your landlord has not made repairs.

**Did you recently go to a court hearing?**  
The court wants to make online and in-person hearings better. [Share your opinion!](#)

### Does my landlord have to fix things in my apartment?

A tenant has the right to live in a home that is in reasonable repair, fit for use as a proper home, meets local housing codes and is reasonably energy efficient. The landlord has the responsibility to make sure your home is fit to live in. If your landlord does not make repairs, there are things you can do to make the landlord fix the problems. If it is not an emergency, do the things below.

*If it is an emergency, call [your legal aid office](#) right away. Emergencies are things like no power, no heat, no stove or oven, no working plumbing, no hot water, or an intent-to-condemn notice.*

### Make a List of What Needs to be Fixed

### Call a Housing Inspector

### Can my landlord kick me out for calling an inspector?

### What if my landlord doesn't do the repairs?

### Does it cost to file a Rent Escrow Action?

## Getting a Landlord to Make Repairs

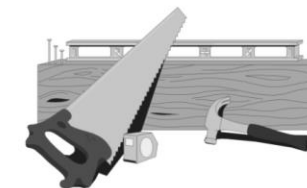
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### Make a List of What Needs to be Fixed

Make a list of things that need fixing or fill out the attached repair list. Make sure you put the date on it and sign it. Keep a copy for yourself and mail it to your landlord. Send it to the address where you pay rent. If you pay rent online, the website should have a mailing address listed on it. Some judges are ok with texts and emails asking for repairs. If you send a text or email, make sure you can print them out with date and time stamp. Your landlord has 14 days to fix the problems after getting the written request from you.



### Call a Housing Inspector

You don't have to call an inspector but if your city has housing inspectors, call them. They can back up what you put on your list. When they come, show them your list so that they do not miss anything. Ask for a copy of their report.

In Minneapolis, call 3-1-1. In St. Paul, call (651) 266-8989. In other parts of the state you can call 2-1-1, or 1- (800) 543-7709 to see if your city has a housing inspector.



Providers & Clinics

Self Help Library



## LawHelpMN Guide

Your guide to finding information and a lawyer.

What legal help do you need today?

- A lawyer
- To learn more about my rights or a legal problem
- Both a lawyer and information



### Advice You Can Trust

For more than 100 years, Minnesotans have gotten free legal help from Legal Aid offices. [More about us »](#)



### Providers and Clinics

[View all legal providers and clinics »](#)



### Find a legal kiosk today

[Find a kiosk »](#)



LSC's support for this website is limited to those activities that are consistent with LSC restrictions.



Quick Exit

# Providers and Clinics

Search for legal services providers and clinics.

## Search for Providers

Use the filters to search for different providers and clinics.

### Legal Topics

Please select the topic(s) to filter by.

Housing - Any -

### Keywords

Enter Keyword(s)

### Service Areas

MCLEOD  
Meeker  
Mille Lacs  
Morrison  
Mower  
Murray  
Nicollet  
Nobles  
Norman  
Olmsted  
City-County Lookup

### Organization

### Service Type

- Any -

Search

Reset

## Service Type

- Any -

- Any -

No Cost Lawyers

Clinic

Mediation

Lawyer Referral

Informational Service

## Legal Topics

Please select the topic(s) to filter by.

- Any -

Abuse & Crime Victims

Benefits & Health Care

Criminal & Traffic

Disability

Estate Planning & Elder Law

Family

Housing

Immigration

Miscellaneous

Money & Debt (Consumer)

Taxes

Work & Unemployment

Youth Rights & School

- Any -

## LAOC General Civil Law

Legal Assistance of Olmsted County finds attorneys who provide free legal advice, brief services, and full representation for low-income people in some civil legal cases. To see what kinds of cases we usually help with, please click on the Legal Topics tab.

**Service Areas:** Olmsted

[Application Process \[+\]](#)

[Legal Topics \[+\]](#)

[Contact & Hours \[+\]](#)

**Income Limits:** 200%  
**Type:** No Cost Lawyers  
**Last Updated:** 12/1/22

## SMRLS-Employment Law

SMRLS provides service through its **Volunteer Attorney Program** for some Employment Law cases.

**Service Areas:** Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cottonwood, Dakota, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Jackson, Le Sueur, Martin, McLeod, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Pipestone, Ramsey, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Scott, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Washington, Watonwan, Winona

[Application Process \[+\]](#)

[Legal Topics \[+\]](#)

[Contact & Hours \[+\]](#)

**Income Limits:** 200%  
**Type:** No Cost Lawyers  
**Last Updated:** 5/11/23

## MN Disability Law Center

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid's Disability Law Center provides free legal advice, brief services, and full representation to people experiencing critical legal issues related to a disability. To see what kinds of cases we usually help with, please click on the Legal Topics tab.

**Service Areas:** statewide

[Application Process \[+\]](#)

[Legal Topics \[+\]](#)

[Contact & Hours \[+\]](#)

**Income Limits:** None  
**Special Requirements:** Disabled  
**Type:** No Cost Lawyers  
**Last Updated:** 6/7/23

## LAOC General Civil Law

Legal Assistance of Olmsted County finds attorneys who provide free legal advice, brief services, and full representation for low-income people in some civil legal cases. To see what kinds of cases we usually help with, please click on the Legal Topics tab.

**Service Areas:** Olmsted

<b>Application Process [-]</b>	<b>Legal Topics [+]</b>	<b>Contact &amp; Hours [+]</b>
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**Application Process:**  
Fill out our [online application](#). If you do not hear from us within 2 business days, please call us at [507-287-2036](tel:507-287-2036). **If you have a court hearing in the next 5 days or other time-sensitive emergency**, call us right away for further assistance.

<b>Application Process [+]</b>	<b>Legal Topics [-]</b>	<b>Contact &amp; Hours [+]</b>
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- **Estate Planning & Elder Law**
  - Forms assistance
- **Immigration**
  - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
  - Other immigration issue
- **Miscellaneous**
- **Money & Debt (Consumer)**
  - Contracts and warranties
  - Debt collection
  - Other consumer/finance
- **Work & Unemployment**

<b>Application Process [+]</b>	<b>Legal Topics [+]</b>	<b>Contact &amp; Hours [-]</b>
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1700 North Broadway  
Suite 124  
Rochester, MN 55906

[507-287-2036](tel:507-287-2036)

**Schedule:**  
**Mon - Fri: 8:30 am-4:30 pm**

**Holiday schedule:**

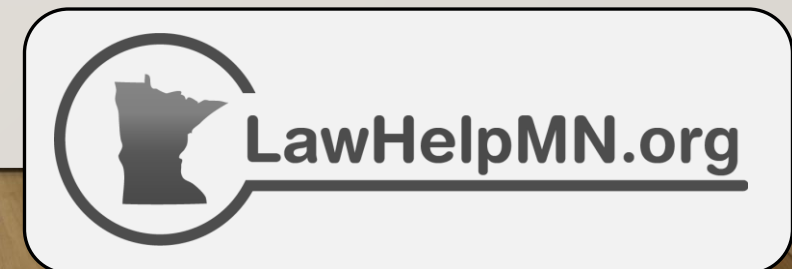
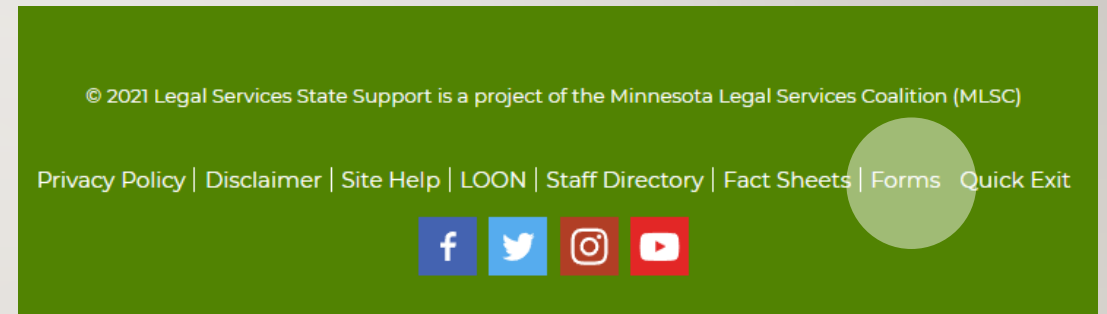
**Legal organization:**  
<https://www.laocmn.org/>

# Do-It-Yourself Legal Forms

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Clients answer questions to [create their own legal documents](#):

- Health Care Directive
- Power of Attorney
- Eviction Answer Form
- Delegation of Parental Authority
- Court Fee Waiver
- Credit Report Requests
- Stop Contact Letter





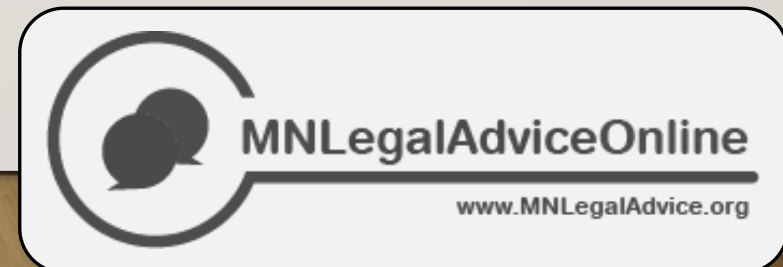
# Minnesota Legal Advice Online

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Low-income Minnesotans can [post questions and get free advice](#) from lawyers

Client eligibility:

- 14 years or older
- 200% FPG
- All civil questions



# Legal Kiosks

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**Legal kiosks are computers located across the state of Minnesota that provide access to legal aid services to individuals without access to wi-fi or technology.**

Legal kiosks are stationed in various community locations offering the ability to:

- Apply for civil legal aid services
- Access legal resources, and;
- In some cases, attend online meetings and remote court hearings in privacy.



Legal Kiosk  
**PROJECT**

# Justice Buses

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[Justice Buses](#) are mobile legal aid offices that travel to rural areas. Lawyers are available to meet, advise, and give legal information so clients can stay close to home.

- [Use the contact form](#) to request a bus for your organization or event.
- [Check out the calendar](#) to see where the buses will be.
- There's a bus available in each region of the state.

# Thank you to Mayo Clinic, The Landing, and You

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For questions, materials, or to schedule a presentation, please contact:



**Julie Olmsted, J.D.**

Outreach Coordinator

[Legal Services State Support](#)

[jolmsted@mnlegalservices.org](mailto:jolmsted@mnlegalservices.org)

651-432-4608