



Legal Assistance, Resources & Information for **DAKOTA COUNTY**

Legal Help – General

Legal Assistance of Dakota County & Volunteer Attorney Program

www.dakotalegal.org

Client intake: (952) 431-3200

15025 Glazier Ave., Suite 201, Apple Valley, MN 55124

Free legal representation and advice to low-income people for civil legal problems, primarily in family law and protection from domestic abuse. Attorney referral service through Dakota County Bar Association also offered.

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services

<http://www.smrls.org/>

1-888-575-2954

Free legal help to low-income and senior citizen clients for civil (non-criminal) legal problems including family law, government benefits, housing, and other matters.

Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN)

<https://www.vlnmn.org/>

(612) 752-6677 (intake by phone available MWT from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

Statewide civil (including administrative law, bankruptcy, debtor/creditor, employment, and tax) and criminal expungement legal services available for low-income people through volunteer attorneys by phone. Some assistance available in-person locally and to those who are able to travel to Minneapolis/St. Paul. Spanish legal services available. Call or check the website for more information.

Minnesota Courts Self-Help Centers

<http://www.mncourts.gov/selfhelp/>

Forms, videos and other information for individuals representing themselves in court.

Legal Advice Clinics

<http://www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/Self-Help-Centers.aspx#tab06ClinicLocations>

Directory of legal clinics across the state.

LawHelpMN.org

<http://www.lawhelpmn.org/>

Help for low-income people with a broad range of civil (non-criminal) legal matters. Website provides information and resources on a variety of legal topics and can help connect individuals to legal aid and assistance. Live online chat help service available.

Dakota County Law Library

<http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/LawJustice/LawLibrary/Pages/default.aspx>

(651) 438-8080 (Hastings) or (952) 891-7135 (Apple Valley)

Hastings (Judicial Center) 1560 Highway 55, Hastings, MN 55033

Apple Valley (Galaxie Library) 14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124.

Legal help clinics for family law, consumer law and criminal expungement. Call for details.



Legal Help – General, *continued*

Minnesota State Law Library

<http://mn.gov/law-library/>

(651) 297-7651

Room G25, Minnesota Judicial Center, 25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155

General Appeals Self-Help Walk-in Clinic - held on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.

*This is a brief advice clinic for people who are representing themselves. There is no income-qualification required for attendance. **Unemployment Appeal Legal Advice Clinic** - service for people who have already had a hearing with the Unemployment Law Judge and have also requested reconsideration and it has been denied. BEFORE filing an appeal with the Minnesota Court of Appeals, call or attend a clinic and get advice about how to proceed. Clinics held: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursdays of the month via telephone and 4th Thursdays of the month in person. Call (651)296-2775 to schedule an appointment. More information available on our website: <http://mn.gov/law-library/services/self-help-clinics.jsp>.*

Minnesota State Bar Association Lawyer Referral

<http://www.mnfindalawyer.com/>

Free online lawyer search and referral service.

Ramsey County Bar Association – Modest Fee Service (serves Metro counties)

(651) 224-1775

Full representation for those who do not qualify for Legal Aid based on income.

Minnesota Legal Advice Online (MLAO)

<http://www.mnlegaladvice.org/>

Volunteer attorneys answer legal questions via email for individuals who meet income qualifications.

United Way 211

<http://www.211unitedway.org/>

Dial 2-1-1. Operators available 24/7 to provide targeted referrals to legal services and resources.

Children & Youth

YouthLink

<http://www.youthlinkmn.org/>

(612) 252-1200; 41 N. 12th St, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Free clinic for low-income youth (under 21) with legal problems (family, immigration, employment, public benefits, criminal, and housing). Also offers a drop-in center.

Youth Law Project

(612) 334-5970

430 1st Ave. #300, Minneapolis, MN 55401

The Project works with children/youth from birth to age 18, and to 21 for youth in foster care. Legal assistance for low income individuals who are unable to pay a private attorney.



Children & Youth, *continued*

Children's Law Center of Minnesota

<http://www.clcmn.org/>

(651) 644-4438

450 N Syndicate St, Suite 315, St. Paul, MN 55104

Free advocacy and legal representation for foster care youth in Minnesota.

School Law Center

<http://www.schoolawcenter.com/>

(651) 222-6288

452 Selby Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102

Statewide Legal representation for individual students, their families and groups of students and/or families or agencies serving students and their families in all areas of education law.

Criminal

Public Defender Office – First Judicial District

(651) 480-0122 / Hastings office: 919 Vermillion Street, Suite 200, Hastings, MN 55033

Legal services by court appointment for low-income people involved in criminal and juvenile delinquency cases.

Neighborhood Justice Center

<http://www.njcinc.org/>

(651) 222-4703 / 500 Laurel Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102

Criminal defense & expungement services for low-income residents of Ramsey, Washington & Dakota Counties.

Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN) – Criminal Expungement Education Seminar

<http://vlnc.wikipaces.com/Seminars>

Galaxie Library, 14955 Galaxie Ave., Apple Valley

Monthly Criminal Expungement Community Education Seminars – fourth Tuesday each month at 1:30 pm.

Second Chance Saturday Criminal Records Workshop

<https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/cjl/scs>

Volunteer Lawyers Network and Criminal Justice League

(612) 752-6677

University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC)

2100 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN (Along bus lines 7, 19 and 32).

Monthly criminal records workshop held every third Saturday of the month from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.



Criminal, continued

Mitchell Hamline Pro Se Self-Help Clinic - Expungement

<http://mitchellhamline.edu/self-help-clinic/>

(651) 695-7609

875 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

Assistance for self-represented parties. Call for schedule as service times vary throughout the year.

Reentry Clinic – Mitchell Hamline School of Law

(651) 290-6413

Provides brief legal services to female prisoners in Minnesota who are nearing their release dates, as well as services related to family law and other civil matters.

Disability & Health

Minnesota Disability Law Center

<http://mylegalaid.org/about/our-work/disability-law>

1-800-292-4150 or (612) 332-4668 (TDD)

Free civil (non-criminal) legal assistance to individuals with disabilities statewide on legal issues related to their disabilities.

Disability Linkage Line of Minnesota

<https://www.semCIL.org/programs/disability-linkage-line/>

1-866-333-2466

A free, statewide, information, referral and assistance service called Disability Linkage Line is now available to help people with disabilities, chronic illnesses and their representatives connect to community services.

Cancer Legal Care

<http://www.cancerlegalcare.org/>

(651) 917-9000

6 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 120, Arden Hills, MN 55112

Cancer Legal Care provides caring and compassionate legal services at no cost to Minnesotans affected by cancer.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

<http://www.namidakotacounty.org/>

(952) 432-9278 or 1-888-NAMI-HELPS

P.O. Box 22121, Eagan, MN 55122

Education, advocacy, support, and referrals for people with mental illness and their families.

Minnesota Aids Project

<http://www.mnaidsproject.org>

612-373-AIDS (Metro) or 800-248-AIDS (Toll Free)

Legal assistance for HIV-related legal matters including estate planning, discrimination, social security, immigration, and employment-related matters.



Domestic Abuse

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

<http://www.mcbw.org/>

24-Hour Phone Line: (866) 223-1111

24-hour hotline for victims of domestic abuse throughout Minnesota helps connect individuals to resources and services available to them.

Standpoint (formerly Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project)

<http://www.standpointmn.org/>

1-800-313-2666 or (612) 343-9842

Statewide program serving battered women, their advocates, attorneys and the general public in Minnesota.

Family

Dakota County Social Services – Children and Family

(952) 891-7400

14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124

Legal Clinics for Family Law

Free 30 minute meeting with an attorney, by appointment only.

Dakota County Family Court Self Help Centers:

- Hastings (651) 438-8080
- Apple Valley (952) 891-7135
- West St. Paul (651) 438-8102

Lewis House Family Law Clinic, Eagan: (651) 452-7288

360 Communities Family Law Clinic, Burnsville: (651) 437-1291

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Law Center

<http://www.icwlc.org/>

(612) 879-9165

Legal representation to parents, family members, Indian custodians and children, who are involved in legal matters governed by the ICWA.

Hennepin County Bar Association

Family Law Low Fee Project (serves Dakota County)

(612) 752-6666

Full representation for the working poor. A \$500 retainer fee is required.

Office of Ombudsperson for Families

<http://mn.gov/ombudfam/index.html>

(651) 603-0058 or 1-888-234-4939

1450 Energy Drive, Suite 106, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Assistance with child protection matters, social service issues, and failure to comply with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) or the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA).



Family, *continued*

Family Law Clinic – University of MN Law School

(612) 625-5515

Child support, custody, dissolution, harassment restraining order, OFP, paternity. Law clinic staff will assess eligibility.

Mitchell Hamline Pro Se Self-Help Clinic

<http://mitchellhamline.edu/self-help-clinic/>

(651) 695-7609

875 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

Assistance for self-represented parties for the following legal issues: child support modification, dissolution/divorce, establishing custody and parenting time, and modifying parenting time. Call for schedule as service times vary throughout the year.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender

Trans/Queer Legal Clinic (Volunteer Lawyers Network)

<https://www.vlnmn.org/>

Walk-in or [make an appointment](#).

Free clinics held on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Exchange (3405 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis) and the fourth Monday of each month from 2-4 pm at Family Tree Clinic (1619 Dayton Ave. #205, St. Paul).

Outfront Minnesota (GLBT Youth)

<https://www.outfront.org/home>

(612) 822-0127 or 1-800-800-0350

310 E. 38th St., #204, Minneapolis, MN 55409

Provides advocacy, assistance, and referrals to help guide youth through the legal process.

Gender Justice

<http://www.genderjustice.us/legalassistance>

(651) 789-2090

550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

Gender Justice provides legal representation for transgender and other clients relative to employment discrimination, health care, and other necessities.



Housing & Homelessness

HOME Line (Tenant Hotline)

<http://www.homelinemn.org/>

Call: (612) 728-5767 or (866) 866-3546; [Email an attorney](#)

Statewide tenant's rights organization that provides free legal advice to renters in Minnesota.

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

<http://www.mac-v.org/>

Minneapolis: (612) 726-1327; Duluth: (218) 722-8763; and Mankato: (507) 345-8258

Assistance throughout Minnesota to positively motivated veterans and their families who are homeless or experiencing other life crises.

Minnesota Multi Housing Association

<http://www.mmha.com/>

Hotline: (952) 858-8222

Landlord/tenant hotline provides pre-recorded information related to rental statutes and rights. Individuals may leave a message and a volunteer will return the call to help answer questions.

Minnesota Home Ownership Center

<http://www.hocmn.org/>

(651) 659-9336

Home help services in Minnesota including first-time home buyer assistance, foreclosure process assistance and home mortgage assistance.

Immigration

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

<http://www.ilcm.org/>

1-800-223-1368 or (651) 641-1011

Free brief legal advice and full legal representation to immigrants and refugees in Minnesota who qualify for services.

The Advocates for Human Rights

<http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/>

(612) 341-9845

300 Second Avenue South, Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Legal services for low-income asylum seekers and immigrant detainees.

Immigration Pathways to Freedom, Standpoint

<http://www.standpointmn.org/path-to-freedom>

(612) 343-9842 or 1-800-313-2666

Direct services, support and representation to victims seeking U and T Visas, Removal of the Condition of Residency, Legal Permanent Residency, Violence Against Women Act Self-Petition and Citizenship, among other petitions.



Immigration, *continued*

Center for New Americans – University of MN Law School

*Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic, Detainee Rights Clinic, & Immigration and Human Rights Clinic
The education and outreach program educates noncitizens about their legal rights.
For more information, call 612-625-1000.*

United Cambodian Association of Minnesota

<http://ucamn.org/>

(651) 222-3299

1385 Mendota Heights Rd Suite 500, Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Bilingual and bicultural legal and immigration assistance to low-income refugees and immigrants living in Minnesota.

Immigration – Migrant Workers

Statewide help through Southern MN Regional Legal Services

(651) 291-2837 or 1-888-575-2954

Staff attorneys provide statewide legal representation, advice and referrals to low-income migrant farm workers.

Seniors

Estate & Elder Law Services (Volunteers of America)

<http://www.voamnwi.org/estate-and-elder-law>

(612) 676-6300

Attorneys assist clients with wills, trusts, estate planning, probate, powers of attorney, health care directives, guardianship, conservatorship, special needs trusts, Medical Assistance planning, and real estate matters. All individuals are eligible to receive services at private-pay rates and those with disabilities or age 60 and older may qualify to receive services at subsidized rates based on monthly income and asset level.

Senior Linkage Line

<http://metroaging.org/help-information/senior-linkage-line/>

1-800-333-2433

Free statewide telephone information and assistance service on Medicare, prescription drug expense assistance, health insurance counseling, forms assistance, long-term care insurance and planning, caregiver planning and support, and grandparents raising children.

Upper Midwest Pension Rights Project

<http://www.midwestpensions.org/>

1-866-783-5021 or (651) 641-8612

2365 N McKnight Rd, Suite 3, North Saint Paul, MN 55109

Regional pension counseling project to provide free legal counseling services to individuals with retirement and pension plan issues.



Other Organizations

Legal Corps

<http://legalcorps.org/>

(612) 206-0780 or 1-888-454-5267

Free legal help to low-income owners of small businesses and small nonprofit organizations in Minnesota.

Consumer Law Clinic, Apple Valley

(952) 431-3200

Free 30 minute meeting with an attorney, by appointment only.

Debtor Lawsuit Answering Service (Volunteer Lawyers Network)

(612) 752-6677

Advice and assistance for debtors who have been sued and those wondering about filing bankruptcy.

Wills for Heroes

<http://www.willsforheroes.org/>

Call (612) 672-3493 for information about Minnesota programs and clinics.

Free wills and other estate planning documents to first responders and their spouse or domestic partner.

Veterans Legal Services

Statewide assistance through Central Minnesota Legal Services

Minneapolis (612) 332-8151; St. Cloud (320) 253-0138

Services to veterans on civil (non-criminal) legal matters such as consumer debt, family, housing, and benefits. Ask for veterans legal services when calling.

Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners (LAMP)

(651) 290-6413

Civil (non-criminal) and family law services to those incarcerated in MN correctional facilities.

Farmers Legal Action Group

<http://www.flaginc.org/>

(651) 223-5400

6 West 5th Street, Suite 650, St. Paul, MN 55102-1404

Legal services for family farmers and their communities.

Insurance Law Clinic – University of MN Law School

(612) 625-9375

Free legal assistance to persons facing insurance denials for all types of insurance claims (auto, homeowners, accident, etc.).



Other Organizations, *continued*

Twin Cities Christian Legal Aid

<https://www.tccla.org/>

(612) 927-3104

First Covenant Church

810 S. 7th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415

Free civil (non-criminal) legal assistance to qualified individuals at ministry locations around the Twin Cities.

Springboard for the Arts

<http://springboardforthearts.org/>

(651)-292-4381

308 Prince Street, Suite 270, St. Paul, MN 55101

Legal advice for low income persons who need help with business organization, contracts, artist tax audits, copyright and trademark infringement, artist immigration, music royalties, and leasing and buying property.



Legal Help – Federal Court

Minnesota Federal Public Defender

(612) 664-5858 or (612) 664-5850

United States Courthouse: 300 South Fourth Street, Room 107, Minneapolis, MN 55415

United States District Courts – District of Minnesota

www.mnd.uscourts.gov

Federal Pro Se Project - Federal Bar Association Minnesota Chapter

Collaboration between the Minnesota District Court and the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association to help provide civil pro se litigants with an opportunity to have a meaningful consultation with a volunteer lawyer. Parties may be referred to the program by letter from court after filing a civil case in the District of Minnesota.

US Bankruptcy Courts

<http://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/bankruptcy>

Bankruptcy Advice Clinics held bi-weekly at the Minneapolis and St. Paul Federal Courthouses. For more information about these clinics, visit this site: <http://www.mnb.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy-advice-clinics> or contact the Volunteer Lawyers Network at (612) 752-6677.

Federal Court Pro Se Resources

<http://www.mnd.uscourts.gov/Pro-Se/Disclaimer.shtml>

Pro Se Civil Guidebook, forms, federal rules and more.

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program

<http://www.vetsprobono.org/apply/>

(888) 838-7727

Provides assistance to unrepresented veterans or their family members who have filed appeals at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.