Legal Assistance, Resources & Information for

RICE COUNTY

Legal Help – General

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services Southwest

http://www.smrls.org/
1-888-575-2954
Albert Lea Office: 132 N. Broadway, Albert Lea, MN 56007
Rochester office: 903 West Center Street, Suite 130, Rochester, MN 55902
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 Center

http://www.mncourts.gov/selfhelp/
Forms, videos and other information for individuals representing themselves in court.

Legal Advice Clinics and Self Help Centers

http://www.mncourts.gov/selfhelp/?page=251
Directory of legal clinics and Self-Help Centers 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.

Rice County Law Library

http://www.co.rice.mn.us/node/913
(507) 333-3761
In the Rice County Courthouse: 218 Northwest 3rd Street, Faribault, MN 55021

Rice County Courthouse

(507) 332-6107
218 Northwest 3rd Street, Faribault, MN 55021

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 2:30 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.

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.

Criminal

Public Defender Office – Third District
507-455-5887
Owatonna office: 135 West Main, Owatonna, MN 55060
Legal services by court appointment for low-income people who are involved in criminal and juvenile delinquency cases.

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.

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.

Battered Women Legal Advocacy Project

http://www.bwlap.org/
1-800-313-2666 or (612) 343-9842
Statewide program serving battered women, their advocates, attorneys and the general public in Minnesota.

Family

Rice County Social Services

http://www.co.rice.mn.us/node/923
(507) 332-6115
320 Third Street NW, Faribault, MN 55021

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Law Center

http://www.icwlc.org/
(612) 879-9165 or 1-866-879-0123
Legal representation to parents, family members, Indian custodians and children, who are involved in legal matters governed by the ICWA.

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

(651) 222-7193
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.

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 Path to Freedom, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project

http://www.bwlap.org/immigration
(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 1-800-652-9733
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://www.tcaging.org/findinghelp/sll.html
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) 251-5765
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.

Minnesota Disability Law Center
http://mylegalaid.org/about/our-work/disability-law
1-800-292-4150 or (612) 332-4668 (TDD)
Free civil legal assistance to individuals with disabilities statewide on legal issues related to their disabilities.

Disability Linkage Line of Minnesota
https://www.disability.gov/resource/disability-linkage-line-of-minnesota/
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.

Wills for Heroes
http://www.willsforheroes.org/
Call (612) 672-8349 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.

Cancer Legal Line
http://cancerlegalline.org/
(651) 917-9000
1380 Energy Park Lane, Suite 203, St. Paul, MN 55108
Cancer Legal Line provides caring and compassionate legal services at no cost to Minnesotans affected by cancer.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
http://www.namimankatomn.org/
(507) 317-3595
P.O. Box 1175, Mankato, MN 56001
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.

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.

Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners (LAMP)
(651) 290-6413
Civil (non-criminal) and family law services to those incarcerated in MN correctional facilities.

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.

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.

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.).

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.

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.