

RESOURCES

WHAT LEGAL HELP IS AVAILABLE IF I CAN'T AFFORD TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY?

Pro bono services are legal services provided by attorneys who are volunteering their time "pro bono publico," or "for the public good." A number of non-profit organizations in Maryland can assist in obtaining a pro bono attorney.

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Services:
1-800-510-0050

The Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland
800-492-1964
Provides a list of local pro bono organizations.
Official website: www.probonomd.org

The Pro Bono Resource Center of Virginia
Provides a list of local pro bono organizations.
Official website: Pro Bono Lawyers

The People's Law Library
Provides legal and self-help information on Maryland and federal law affecting low and moderate income people and their families.
Official website: www.peoples-law.info

GENERAL STATEWIDE LEGAL PROGRAMS

Legal Aid Bureau

500 E. Lexington Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
410-951-7737
800-458-5340

Works closely with Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service and other local bar affiliated projects by referring low-income clients to the programs as well as making direct referrals to attorneys.

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service

1 North Charles Street, Suite 222, Baltimore, MD 21202
410-547-6537 or 800-510-0050 (clients)
410-539-6800 (administration)

Refers cases in the areas of family law, bankruptcy, consumer, tort defense, wills, guardianship, landlord-tenant, deed change, name change, tax disputes and tax returns to attorneys in all jurisdictions of the state except, Allegany County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County. The program also operates reduced fee programs a community economic development panel and a children's guardian project.

Women's Law Center
305 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 201, Towson, MD 21204
410-321-8761
Experienced family law attorneys staff the Family Law Hotline to provide free advice and counsel to weekly callers.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

Homeless Persons Representation Project
300 Cathedral Street, Suite 204, Baltimore, MD 21201
410-685-6589 or 800-773-4340
Provides legal advice and/or direct representation for homeless individuals and families in shelters and soup kitchens in a variety of civil matters. Also operates a referral program for case representation.

House of Ruth Domestic Violence Legal Clinic
2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218
410-554-8463
Provides counseling and direct representation to battered spouses in civil protection order proceedings and divorce and child custody cases.

The Lawyers Clearinghouse
190 West Ostend Street, Suite 201, Baltimore, MD 21230
410-837-0755 or 410-837-0756
Works with non-profit organizations that are MANO members on legal issues.

Public Justice Center
500 E. Lexington Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
410-625-9409
Engages in systemic litigation and legislative work to correct abuses and ensure protection of the unrepresented, including victims of domestic violence, the disabled, children and migrant workers.

Alternative Directions
2505 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218
410-889-5072
Assists families separated due to incarceration deal with domestic relations, housing and other issues. Provides educational seminars in prisons and jails and refers cases to pro bono counsel.

American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland
2219 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218
410-889-8555
Focuses on civil rights and civil liberties of Maryland residents.

Associated Catholic Charities of Baltimore - Immigration Legal Services

430 South Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21231
410-534-8015

Provides counseling and legal representation for low-income persons with immigration-related problems (i.e. deportation, naturalization, green cards, and visas).

Bar Association of Baltimore City Legal Services to the Elderly Program

111 North Calvert Street, Suite 631, Baltimore, MD 21202
410-396-1322

Program staff and volunteer attorneys provide advice and consultation, direct representation and education/outreach services. Volunteers speak to senior groups about legal topics affecting the elderly. Program staff and volunteers handle pro bono, non-fee generating civil cases, involving public benefits and pensions as well as consumer, health care, housing, guardianship and credit-related problems.

Community Law Center

2500 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21218
410-366-0922

Provides general advice and direct representation involving tax issues and incorporation to non-profit organizations in Baltimore. Works with community associations in rebuilding neighborhoods and nuisance and drug abatement suits with a special focus on community economic development.

Civil Justice, Inc.

520 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21201
410-706-0174

A consortium of solo and small firms throughout Maryland. Civil Justice Refers cases to its members in a variety of practice areas including family law, bankruptcy, consumer, tort defense, wills, guardianship, landlord-tenant, real estate, admiralty, intellectual property, criminal, administrative law, government relations, immigration, special education, small business set-up, predatory lending, environmental, disability rights, employment, personal injury, criminal, and national security. Also offers a program for first time home buyers.

Health Education Resource Organization (HERO)

1734 Maryland Avenue, 2nd floor, Baltimore, MD 21201 410-685-1180 ext. 261 Assists those infected with HIV virus or AIDS with Social Security and SSI disability appeals and other Social Security issues. Also assist estate-planning, permanency planning for children, debtor/creditor bankruptcy, and domestic and discrimination issues.

Heartly House, Inc.

P.O. Box 857, Frederick, MD 21705-0857
301-662-8800

Serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse in Frederick County, Heartly House provides court advocacy and representation for protective and peace order proceedings and divorce and child custody cases. We also offer a 24 hour hotline, crisis shelter, and counseling.

Jewish Legal Services Clinic
5750 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215
410-542-6300 ext. 200 (voice mail)

Provides free brief legal consultation and advice on any non-fee generating legal matter through an evening walk-in clinic. May refer clients to attorneys for further representation. Russian translators available.

Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center
(Formerly Stephanie Roper Foundation)
14750 Main Street 1B, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
301-952-0063 or 1-877-VICTIM-1

Assists Maryland crime victims with protection, compensation, victims' rights, and general advice and support through the criminal justice process.

Maryland Disability Law Center
1800 North Charles Street, Suite 400, Baltimore, MD 21201
410-727-6352

Uses volunteers to represent children in special education cases and in school disciplinary proceedings. Also assists persons with developmental disabilities, mental illness and ADA compliance issues.

Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence
P.O. Box 5, Denton, MD 21629
410-479-1149

Provides assistance to victims of domestic violence, primarily with ex parte protective orders/peace orders. Refers clients to receive legal representation through a panel of reduced fee attorneys.

Saint Ambrose Legal Services
321 East 25th Street, Baltimore, MD 21218
410-366-8537

Handles cases involving improper predatory refinancing of home loans; fraudulent flipping of homes; home improvement fraud; and land installment agreements contracted fraudulently.

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program
701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 131, Washington, DC 20004
202-628-8164 or 888-838-7727

For lawyer Recruitment and Training
202-265-8305 ext. 110

Matches low-income veterans who need legal representation before

the Court of Veterans Appeals on benefit issues.

YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Legal Services

1517 Ritchie Highway, Arnold, MD 21012

410.757.8300

Provides counseling and direct representation to battered spouses in civil protection order proceedings and divorce and child custody project. Also places contested custody cases for low-income clients with private attorneys in reduced-fee program.