



Legal Resources

Where can I go for help?

Legal Services Programs

- *Minnesota Legal Services Coalition (MLSC)* is an association of seven Minnesota regional legal services programs that provide assistance in a broad range of civil legal matters to low-income Minnesotans. The services include advice and representation to tenants and landlords with housing issues.

Potential clients will be asked about their income level to determine if they qualify for assistance from legal aid. Most legal aid providers require potential clients to have an income below 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. In 2007, 125% of the FPG for a single person is \$12,763.

Listed below are the MLSC offices covering Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties:

- *Anoka County* –
Judicare of Anoka County
1201 89th Avenue N.E., Suite 310
Blaine, MN 55434
(763) 783-4970

Central Minnesota Legal Services
430 First Avenue North, Suite 359
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 334-5970
- *Carver & Dakota Counties* -
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
712 Canterbury Road South
Shakopee, MN 55379
(651) 222-4731
- *Hennepin County*
Central Minnesota Legal Assistance
430 First Avenue North, Suite 359
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 334-5970

Mid-MN Legal Assistance
430 First Avenue North, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 332-1441

- *Ramsey County*
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
166 E. 4th Street, Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 222-4731
- *Scott County*
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
712 Canterbury Road South
Shakopee, MN 55379
(651) 222-4731
- *Washington County*
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
166 E. 4th Street, Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 222-4731
- *Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN)* serves the legal needs of low-income individuals in Hennepin County by matching them with volunteer attorneys for free legal services. Services range from advice to full representation. To qualify for full representation services, clients must earn 125% or less of the federal poverty guidelines. Other legal services are available for clients earning up to 300% of FPG.
 - Tenant housing cases are referred to VLN from Legal Aid, so the first call for tenants should be to (612) 334-5970.
 - Landlords should contact Volunteer Lawyers Network at (612) 752-6677 for intake or referral.
 - Volunteer Lawyers Network
600 Nicollet Mall Suite 390A
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 752-6677
<http://www.volunteerlawyersnetwork.org>

Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs

- *Mediation Services for Anoka County* offers professionally trained volunteer mediators to assist individuals in successfully resolving problems and disputes using alternative dispute resolution methods. This free mediation program is designed to help people with a variety of disputes and concerns in many areas, including tenants and landlords in dispute over repairs, parking, kids, pets, late rent or residential policies.
 - Mediation Services for Anoka County
2520 Coon Rapids Blvd., Suite #100
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
Phone: 763-422-8878
Fax: 763-422-0808
<http://www.mediationservice.org>

- *Minneapolis Mediation Program (MMP)* provides a variety of alternative types of dispute resolution in areas such as landlord and tenant issues. Some mediation sessions may require a small fee, but no one will be denied service because of an inability to pay. Minneapolis Mediation Program currently provides services to residents and businesses located in Minneapolis, St. Anthony, Edina, Bloomington, Burnsville, Richfield, and Eden Prairie. Sessions are held at a location and time convenient for those involved.
 - Minneapolis Mediation Program
310 East 38th Street
Suite 221
Minneapolis, MN 55409
Phone: 612-822-9883
Email: mplsmediation@mtn.org
Fax: 612-822-9890
<http://www.mplsmediationprogram.org>

- *Community Mediation Services, Inc.* (formerly North Hennepin Mediation Program) CMS provides mediation services in the following cities in northern Hennepin County: Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Corcoran, Golden Valley, Hopkins, Maple Grove, Minnetonka, Mound, New Hope, Orono, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park. The Mediation Program's trained volunteer mediators help people work together to resolve disputes and make decisions in a variety of areas, including landlord and tenant disputes. Landlord/tenant mediation services are provided at no cost.
 - Community Mediation Services, Inc.
9220 Bass Lake Road, Suite 270
New Hope MN 55428
Phone: 763-561-0033
612-629-6058 (Voice Box in Spanish)
Fax: 763-561-0266
<http://www.mediationprogram.com>

- *Dispute Resolution Center* is a private, non-profit community mediation program serving the East Metro area of the Twin Cities. The Center's services provide an effective, convenient, affordable opportunity to find satisfactory solutions to many types of issues including landlord / tenant problems. Fees are dependent upon the type of case and number of participants involved. Sliding fees are available for those who meet income guidelines, but no one is denied service because of an inability to pay.

- Dispute Resolution Center
974 West 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
Phone: 651.292.7791
Fax: 651.292.6065
Email: drc@disputeresolutioncenter.org
Website: <http://www.disputeresolutioncenter.org/>

Free or Self Help Services

- *HOME Line* provides free legal, organizing, education and advocacy services to tenants throughout Minnesota (except Minneapolis) to help them resolve their housing issues. Tenants will receive free legal advice regarding Minnesota landlord/tenant law and will be presented with options for resolving their housing issue. The hotline is free and available to all tenants, regardless of income.
 - HOME Line
3455 Bloomington Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 728-5767
(866) 866-3546 (Greater Minnesota)
Fax: 612-728-5761
<http://www.homelinemn.org>

- *Legal Access Point*. Located at the Self Help Center on the Public Service Level (PSL) of the Hennepin County Government Center, Legal Access Point (LAP) can provide legal assistance to tenants or landlords who may not qualify for assistance from legal aid due to their income level. LAP volunteers will not provide direct representation but can give free 15-minute consultations and provide legal information on a variety of legal matters, including landlord and tenant issues. Hours are between 9:00 am and 11:00 am for walk-in appointments.
 - Legal Access Point
Self-Help Center, Public Service Level (PSL)
Hennepin County Government Center
300 So. 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487

- *Housing Court Project (HCP)* offers free walk-in legal advice for low-income tenants and landlords at the Hennepin County Government Center. HCP does not offer legal representation.
 - *Tenants* are eligible if they live in Hennepin County and have a gross household income of 187.5% or below of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG). Tenants should go to the office located in the room next to the Housing Court clerks' front counter on the 17th floor of the Administration Tower of the Hennepin County Government Center, 300 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN. The hours are Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 am to 11:30 am.
 - *Landlords* are eligible if they live or own property in Hennepin County and have a gross household income of 187.5% or less of FPG. Landlords should go to the Self Help Center on the Public Service Level of the Hennepin County Government Center, Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m.

- *The City of Minneapolis Housing Services* provides rental rights information, advice on tenant-landlord problems and court advocacy to residential property owners and tenants in the city of Minneapolis. Housing advocates provide information about laws, ordinances, and tenant-landlord relations. Advocates may assist tenants in Housing Court.
 - Minneapolis Housing Services
Public Service Center
250 S 4th St., Room 510
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Phone: (612) 673-3003
Fax: (612) 673-3866
TTY: (612) 673-3360
http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/housing_home.asp
 - <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/residents/housing.asp#renters> – City of Minneapolis website for submitting complaint about rental unit.
 - City of Minneapolis Housing Inspections; 612-673-5858

Attorney Referral Services

- *Hennepin County Lawyer Referral and Information Service.* Through this service, a potential client can set up a 30-minute consultation with a member attorney located in the Twin Cities metro area. During the consultation, the attorney can address the issues involved, the legal options available to you, and what they would charge to assist you further with that matter. The tenant or landlord is under no obligation to hire this attorney for additional legal work. The Lawyer Referral Service does charge a \$30 administrative fee to maintain this service, which is paid at the time of the initial consultation. The service is accessible by phone or on-line.
 - (612) 752-6666
 - <https://www.hcba.org/legal-services/LawyerReferral.htm>

- *Minnesota State Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service (LRS)*
The Lawyer Referral Service is an on-line system which provides the name(s) of lawyers practicing a particular type of law in a specific Minnesota county. (Landlord and tenant issues are included under the heading of Real Estate law.) If there is no match in the specific county selected, the system will provide a list of lawyers in other parts of Minnesota who practice the type of law requested. Lawyers who are part of the Minnesota State Bar Association Referral Service agree to provide a free 30-minute initial consultation, either by phone or in person. After the initial consultation, the lawyer generally will charge his/her regular fees.
 - <http://www.mnfindalawyer.com/>

- *Ramsey County Attorney Referral Service.* ARS assists callers in finding an attorney who matches their legal needs. ARS staff will schedule a 30-minute consultation with a private attorney at a convenient location. ARS ensures the referred attorney is licensed to practice in Minnesota, currently has no restrictions on his/her license and is covered under lawyers' liability insurance. There is a referral fee of \$30 for the initial 30-minute consultation, which is the responsibility of the caller to pay. For callers who are unsure of the type of attorney they may need, ARS will assist in determining the area of law best suited for the particular legal matter, and find an attorney who practices in that area of law. ARS is not a free service. All of the member attorneys are private attorneys who charge fees. Callers are encouraged to discuss the attorney's fees during the 30-minute consultation.
 - Ramsey County Attorney Referral Service
Ramsey County Bar Association
E-1401 First National Bank Building
332 Minnesota Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101
Attorney Referral Line: (651) 224-1775

Other Resources

- *Minnesota Attorney General's Office.* “The Minnesota Attorney General’s Office offers information citizens may find useful with regard to housing whether they are a tenant, landlord or homeowner. The Attorney General’s Office has the statutory responsibility to produce an informational booklet on the landlord and tenant laws of the state of Minnesota. This guide provides information on rules governing the landlord and tenant relationship from the moment of entering into an agreement until after the tenancy is ended.
 - <http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Housing/Default.asp>