



# Accessing Legal Services and Re-Entry Barriers



MARYLAND VOLUNTEER LAWYERS SERVICE



## What are legal services?

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- Free or low-cost legal advice and representation for people who can't afford private attorneys fees
- Criminal
- Civil

# Civil Legal Services

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- Where to find the programs and what they do
  - Maryland Legal Services Corporation
    - Funded programs - <https://www.mlsc.org/grants/current/>
  - Maryland Legal Aid
    - 12 offices - <https://www.mdlab.org/office-locations/>
  - Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service - <https://mvlslaw.org/>

# Legal Advice - Self Help Centers

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## Maryland Courts Self-Help Center

 PHONE 410-260-1392 or CHAT 

[Learn more >>](#)



## District Court Self-Help Centers

 Locations in Baltimore City, Frederick, Glen Burnie, Salisbury and Upper Marlboro

[Learn more >>](#)



## Family Law Self-Help Centers

 Walk-in assistance in most Circuit Courts

[Learn more >>](#)

# Family

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- Family Law Hotline – 800-845-8550
  - Limited advice
  - M-F – 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

- Over income
- Fee generating
- Class action
- Civil Justice - <http://www.civiljusticenetwork.org/>
  - Each attorney sets their own fees based on the type and complexity of the case and other factors.
- Lawyer Referral - <https://www.msba.org/for-the-public/lawyer-referral-information/>
  - Through local bar associations

## Reduced Fee Legal Services

# Other Legal Assistance

## ➤ Consumer

- Maryland Attorney General – Consumer Protection Division
  - Consumer hotline – 410-528-8662
  - M-F – 9 am – 3 pm
  - <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/CPD/complaint.aspx>

## ➤ Employment

- Employment Law Hotline
  - 877-422-9500
  - Tuesday – 9:30 am – 1 pm and first Thursday of the month 5-7:30 pm

# Legal Resources

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- Court Forms

- <https://www.courts.state.md.us/courtforms?forms%5B0%5D=languages%3A59>

- Filters – court, legal issue, language, county



# Other Legal Resources - Videos

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<https://www.courts.state.md.us/reference/videolibrary>

Have a legal problem and don't know where to begin? These videos may help. Each video includes transcripts in English and Spanish, a tip sheet, and links to resources, forms, and court services.

## Law Topics

What is service of process? Expungement? Each video in this series tackles a specific legal subject.



[Learn More >>](#)

## Court Basics

From filing fees to court interpreters, videos in this series deliver fundamentals on how the court operates.



[Learn More >>](#)

## Family

A growing collection of videos on domestic law and family legal matters.



[Learn More >>](#)

## Guardianship

Considering becoming a guardian? Have you been appointed? This video series has the information you need for success.



[Learn More >>](#)

## Get Started

Should you represent yourself? Or should you get a lawyer? These videos help get you on track to self-representation.



[Learn More >>](#)

# Legal Resources

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➤ People's Law Library - <https://www.peoples-law.org/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the People's Law Library of Maryland. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "English | Español | français | 简体中文 | 한국어" and a banner image with the text "The People's Law Library of Maryland" and "Legal Self-Help Information for Marylanders. Hosted by the Maryland State Law Library." Below the banner is a navigation menu with links: HOME, HOW DO I...?, LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY, LEGAL CLINIC CALENDAR, RESEARCH TOPICS, and ABOUT. A search bar is located below the menu. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column is titled "HOW DO I...?" and lists several options: Get Help, Evaluate My Situation, Find Alternatives to Court, Find Court and Legal Forms, Research the Law, File a Case/Respond to a Case, Prepare for My Day in Court, and Appeal or Enforce a Decision. The middle column is titled "LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY" and includes a search form with fields for Keyword, County (with a dropdown menu set to "- Any -"), and Category (with a dropdown menu set to "- Any -"), and a "FIND A SERVICE PROVIDER" button. The right column is titled "MARYLAND COURTS SELF-HELP CENTER" and provides contact information: "Call or chat with a lawyer about your civil legal matter, at no cost" and "8:30 am - 8:00 pm, Mon - Fri". There is also a "CHAT" button with a "Click Here" link and the phone number "410-260-1392".

# MVLS - Legal Information

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## Legal Resource Categories

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- **Consumer**
- **Criminal Record Relief**
- **Estate Planning & Estate Administration**
- **Family**
- **Housing**
- **Income Tax Controversy**

<https://mvlslaw.org/free-legal-help/legal-resources/>

Primarily plain language factsheets