

Where To Go for Legal Advice in the Cleveland Area

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service

1301 E. Ninth St.

Cleveland, OH 44114-1253

216-696-3525

<http://www.clemetrobar.org/LRS.aspx>

The Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) is available by phone Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. You may also leave a voice mail message at those numbers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or send an email via online referral request forms. LRS serves as a bridge between the public and the legal community by assisting persons who have legal questions or need legal advice but do not know where to turn for a lawyer. Referrals can be made based on areas of law and geography. Many problems can be solved without a lawyer and LRS also makes referrals to qualified service agencies that may be able to help. LRS refers persons who can afford to pay a reasonable fee for legal services to an attorney. After a brief interview with an Intake Specialist, you will be given the name and phone number of one of the Panel Member Attorneys based on area of law and any geographic and/or language preferences. Once you have the Attorney's name and number, you may contact his/her office directly.

ACLU of Ohio Foundation

4506 Chester Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio 44103-3621

Attn: Intake Dept.

216-472-2200

<http://www.acluohio.org>

No walk-in service or legal advice will be given over the phone. The ACLU provides legal services to protect individuals' constitutional rights and handles cases that involve serious violations of civil liberties by the government. If the dispute cannot otherwise be settled, the ACLU will defend the injured party in court. The ACLU serves to protect, defend, expand constitutional rights and civil liberties by litigation, legislative action, and public education. In most circumstances the ACLU does not take divorce, child custody, landlord/tenant or private employment cases. There are no income requirements and no fees for services. If you need legal assistance, send a one page letter describing the situation along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to the above listed address, or fill out an online complaint form. You will be contacted if the American Civil Liberties Union can help.

Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office

310 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 400

Cleveland, OH 44113-1021

216-443-8355 or 216-443-3685 for general inquiries

216-443-8355 or 216-443-3685 for felony questions

216-443-7295 or 216-443-5802 for juvenile inquiries

216-443-7583 for appellate inquiries

216-443-2190 for municipal inquiries

<http://www.publicdefender.cuyahogacounty.us>

The Public Defender's Office is available for questions and misdemeanor interviews weekdays from 1:00-4:00 pm. The Public Defender's Office provides legal services to indigent adults and juveniles charged with violations of the criminal code. If you are financially able to hire your own attorney, you are encouraged to do so immediately as services are limited to those who cannot afford counsel. However, anyone can call the Public Defender's Office with questions. Public Defenders are normally appointed for felony cases through the Early Case Management Project or at arraignments by the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, General and Juvenile Divisions, and the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

1223 W. 6th St.

Cleveland, OH 44113

216-687-1900

<http://www.lasclev.org>

Legal Aid is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and Thursday between 9 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., except on legal holidays. Legal Aid provides free legal services on civil matters. Areas of law include: housing, consumer, employment, education, health, social security, benefits, family, immigration, and income tax. Assistance is free for those who qualify for the Legal Aid's services. Eligibility for free legal services is based upon current Federal Poverty Income Guidelines and an asset limit. There are exceptions for victims of domestic violence and others. If you qualify for Legal Aid, they will determine whether it is a type of case that they can handle. Be sure to bring all of the papers related to the legal problem. Legal Aid will then either: give advice or educational materials, or schedule an appointment with a staff attorney, or make a referral to a volunteer attorney.

Housing Advocates, Inc.

3214 Prospect Ave. East

Cleveland, OH 44115

216-431-7400

www.housingadvocatesinc.com

Housing Advocates Inc. (HAI) is open weekdays from 9:30am – 7:00pm. HAI is a not-for-profit tax exempt corporation designated as a public interest law firm by the IRS. It operates a Housing Law Clinic as a joint program with Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Fair Housing Law Clinic. HAI focuses on housing discrimination

cases in both state and federal court, and agencies. They do not assist with strictly landlord tenant disputes. HAI also provides foreclosure counseling and defense. Anyone is eligible and fees are based on the client's ability to pay. For assistance, you may walk-in or call. Persons seeking assistance should bring all information about their legal issue with them for intake. An attorney will then determine if they can help and follow-up with you. If HAI cannot assist you, they will refer you to someone who can.

Witness/Victim Service Center of Cuyahoga County

1275 Ontario St., 2nd Floor

Cleveland, OH 44113

216-443-3082

<http://ja.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/wvsc-new.aspx>

The Witness/Victim Service Center (WVSC) is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. The WVSC seeks to promote and preserve the rights of crime victims. Services provided include criminal justice and juvenile court system advocacy, community referrals (including attorneys), counseling, assistance with applications for victims of crime compensation, and bilingual services for Spanish-speaking individuals. Generally, services are available to victims of crime. To contact the WVSC, call the listed number. Walk-ins are also accepted.

The Domestic Violence Center of Greater Cleveland

3146 Scranton Ave.

Cleveland, OH 44109

216-651-8484

24-hour hotline: 216-391-HELP (4357)

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

The Domestic Violence Center (DVC) is open Monday-Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm. For over 30 years in the Greater Cleveland area, The Domestic Violence Center has been dedicated to ending abuse and providing compassionate treatment for its victims. Services include: confidential shelter, counseling, justice system advocacy, youth programs or supervised visitation, assistance with stalking cases, and support groups for women. Services are available to anyone who has been hurt by domestic violence. To contact the DVC fill out the online form and someone will respond in 24-48 hours. If you need immediate assistance, call the 24-hour hotline. Please, call 911 if you are afraid for your immediate safety.

Cleveland State University Employment Law Clinic

1801 Euclid Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44115

216-687-3947

<http://www.law.csuohio.edu/academics/curriculum/clinics/employment.html>

The clinic is open for calls Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm. The clinic handles cases involving unfair treatment of an employee as a result of discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, national origin, handicap or some other prohibited basis as well as some other employment law issues. The clinic utilizes upper level law students to

assist with a variety of employment issues. There are a limited amount of intake of cases. There are no financial requirements for eligibility. Employees who feel that they have been subjected to unfair treatment can call the Clinic to speak to the office manager who will then review and determine if a student should interview. The caller may then be advised of his/her options, represented in the matter before administrative agencies and/or courts, or referred if possible depending on the situation. For assistance you must call, as the Clinic does not accept walk-ins.

Case Western Reserve University Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center

11075 East Blvd.

Cleveland, OH 44106

216-368-2766

<http://law.cwru.edu/clinic/>

Open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. All appointments are made by phone. No walk-in appointments are accepted. The Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center at Case School of Law offers free legal assistance to eligible persons with certain types of legal problems. Some of the legal problems the clinic handles are: criminal misdemeanor cases in Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights, consumer home repair and predatory lending, social security disability and health insurance claims and assistance to non-profit groups and organizations as well as certain small businesses in organizational and ongoing legal matters. The clinic does not handle criminal felony cases, appeals, and cases where you are unlikely to need a lawyer (small claims court) or cases where you can find a lawyer to help you without requiring a fee in advance (fee generating cases where you are trying to recover money). All persons in Cuyahoga County of any age or race are eligible if they are within the income guidelines. No legal fee is charged. Filing and court costs must be paid by the client. For assistance, call the clinic and talk to the intake person. No legal advice is given over the phone. If a person requiring advice is eligible for our services the name will be placed on the waiting list. Potential clients are placed on the list and called as soon as possible.

Cleveland Homeless Legal Assistance Program

P.O. Box 93061

Cleveland, OH 44101-5061216

216-432-0543

<http://www.neoch.org/chlap.htm>

For a list of intake session locations and times visit:

http://www.neoch.org/chlap_intake_sched2010.htm. 2010 weekly intake sessions are held Wednesdays at the May Dugan Center (4115 Bridge Ave.) from 10:00am-12:00pm and at Trinity Cathedral (E. 22nd and Euclid) from 2:00pm-4:00pm. In association with the Cleveland Bar Association, CHLAP has implemented a legal service project to aid homeless and impoverished people. CHLAP handles non-criminal and non-fee generating matters. CHLAP provides legal assistance to indigent people who are homeless, in danger of becoming homeless, or those who have been homeless during the recent past. For assistance attend one of the intake sessions. When attending an intake session, explain the type of legal problem you

have and bring all your paperwork to the meeting with the attorney. The attorney will then either answer your questions or make a referral to someone who can help.

Cleveland Tenants Organization

3631 Perkins Ave. Suite 3A4

Cleveland, OH 44114

216-432-0617

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

Open Monday-Thursday 11:00am-7:00pm, Friday 9:00am-5:00pm, and Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm. CTO offers information on landlord-tenant law, housing assistance for homeless persons, eviction assistance for tenants facing eviction, and tenant advocacy services. Eligibility is dependent upon the type of assistance you are seeking. Intake process requires you to call for assistance. Walk-ins are generally not accepted. Referrals are also made if a person has a question that the CTO staff cannot answer.

University of Akron - Prisoner Legal Assistance Clinic

University of Akron Legal Clinic

Akron, OH 44321-2901

330-972-7751

<http://www.uakron.edu/law/clinical/prisoner.dot>

The Legal Clinic is open Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm. The Clinic can help with general research questions regarding appeals. If you have an attorney, the Clinic cannot give legal advice. Persons eligible for assistance are indigent inmates or prisoners under any jurisdiction. For assistance, write to the Clinic. The Clinic will write back to you and let you know if they can be of assistance.

Save the Dream Hotline

1-888-404-4764

<http://savethedream.ohio.gov/>

Hotline hours: Monday-Friday 7:30am-7:00pm. The Hotline provides information on resources and assistance available to renters and homeowners facing foreclosure. The website also provides links to information about foreclosure in Ohio and other resources that can help you avoid losing your home. Eligible persons are those who are facing foreclosure or who are anticipating foreclosure. For help, call to fill out an application over the phone. The application requires basic information, including the name of your mortgage company and your loan number. Save the Dream will process your application and determine if you are eligible for assistance.

Pro Seniors Hotline

1-800-488-6070

http://www.proseniors.org/legal_services.html

Hotline Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:00pm. The Legal Hotline provides free legal information, advice, and referral for residents of Ohio. Typical questions

concern Medicare, Medicaid and Medicaid estate recovery, living wills, durable powers of attorney for health care, and consumer problems. Eligible persons are Ohioans age 60 and older. The hotline responds to the legal needs of callers within Ohio regardless of income or location. When you call the Legal Hotline, you will initially talk with an intake worker. The intake worker will gather basic information, such as name, address, birthdate, phone number, etc., and take down the general nature of your question or problem and make an appointment with an attorney. Hotline attorneys use the information collected by the intake workers to return calls. If you have a legal problem that cannot be solved over the phone, the Legal Hotline will try to refer you to an appropriate source for more in-depth assistance.

Help from Local Courts

Eighth District Court of Appeals Staff Attorneys

1 Lakeside Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio 44113

216-443-6350

<http://appeals.cuyahogacounty.us/staffattorneys.htm>

The court is open Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm. The staff attorneys cannot give legal advice but they can help with appellate procedural issues. There are three Staff Attorneys and one will be available to help you. The Staff Attorneys assist parties to appeals in the municipal or county courts in Cuyahoga County. For assistance, call the court. Walk-ins are also accepted. For more information, you may also consult the website's "Frequently Asked Questions" and "Local Rules" pages.

Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court Legal Dept

One W. Lakeside Ave.

Cleveland, OH 44113

216-443-8829

<http://domestic.cuyahogacounty.us/>

The Legal Department is open Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm. The Legal Department cannot give legal advice; they can only provide procedural information related to domestic relations. The Legal Department assists person involved in actions in the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court. Persons seeking assistance should be Cuyahoga County residents. For assistance call the Legal Department or visit them at their listed address.