

# We Sow, You Reap:

## *Gathering a Bounty of Legal Information*

May 9, 2024



**MLA/DLA Conference**



**Leland Sampson**  
Head of Web Content and Services,  
State Law Library



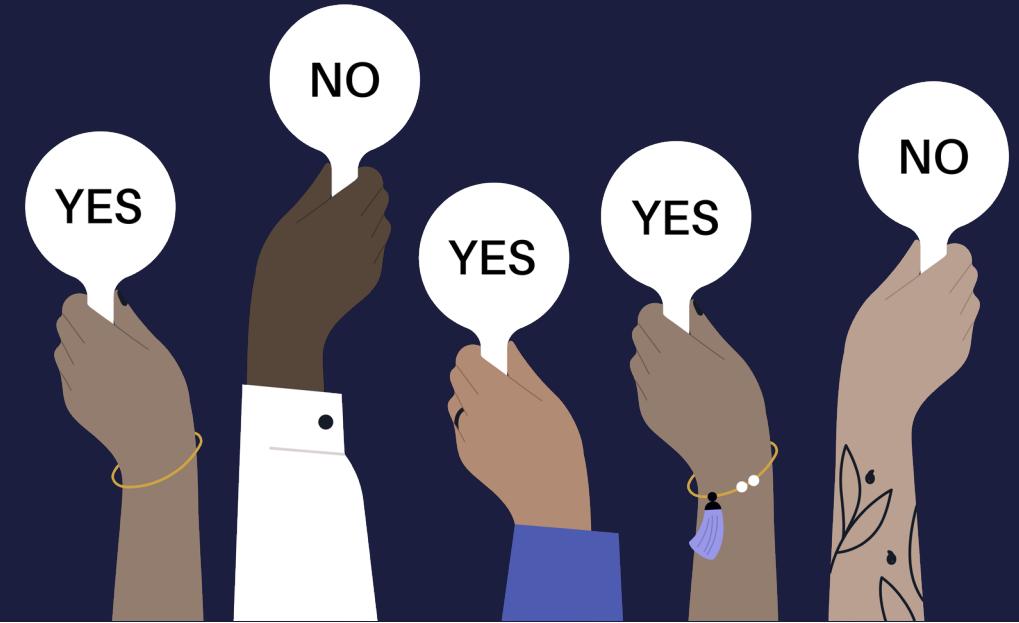
**Brittany West**  
Legal Content Analyst,  
Access to Justice



# Learning Objectives

- Describe the resources provided by the Maryland Judiciary and its agencies
- Identify helpful resources within those provided by the Judiciary
- Distinguish between resources on similar topics

Do you receive legal  
questions from the public  
throughout your workday?



Poll Question

## **A self-represented litigant**

(SRL; aka *pro se*):

is a person seeking legal information to help them advocate on their own behalf, without a lawyer.

An estimated **3 out of 5 people** in civil cases go to court without a lawyer.

# Self-Represented Litigants

What can we provide to the self-represented?

Information

**Self-Represented Litigants**

How comfortable are you in knowing the difference  
between  
***legal advice*** and ***legal information?***

1 = Not comfortable at all

5 = Very comfortable

**Self-Represented Litigants**

I Can	I Cannot
Describe court processes.	Give information if I am unsure of the answer.
Inform litigants of several options without advising them which is best.	Advise litigants whether to take a particular course of action. (Cannot say what a litigant "should" do.)
Direct litigants to applicable court rules and statutes.	Take sides in a case or proceeding pending before the court.
Define key terms and concepts, or describe the role of Judiciary employees who may be involved in the case.	Provide information to one party that I would be unwilling or unable to provide the other.
Provide copies of documents that are matters of public record.	Disclose the outcome of a matter submitted to a judge for decision until the outcome is part of the public record, or until the judge directs disclosure of the matter.

*Source: Maryland Judiciary, A2J Department - <https://mdcourts.gov/mdatjc/whatcanidotohelpyou>*

# What Can You Do?



## Maryland Court Help

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.



Court Help Toolkit



Index of Court Help Topics



Court Help Video Library



Free Legal Webinars



Forms Finder and **Guide & File**



Court Help Centers

# Connecting SRLs with Resources

- Research questions by web form, phone, email, or in person
  - Extended hours:
    - T, Th: 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
    - S: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- People's Law Library website
- Legal reference training for public librarians



## State Law Library



**Read About a Legal Topic**



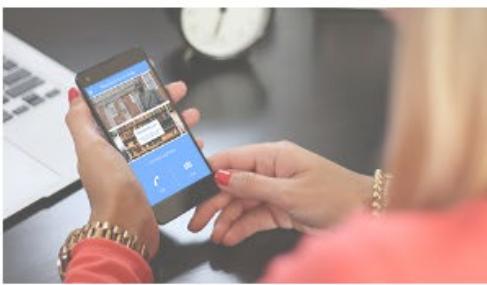
**Court Help Centers**



**Video Library**



**Get Help From a Lawyer**



**Court Help App**



**Language Needs**

**Connecting SRLs with Resources:**  
[mdcourts.gov/courthelp](http://mdcourts.gov/courthelp)



# Maryland Court Help

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.



# Maryland Court Help

Gratis. En Línea. En persona. Por teléfono.

**Maryland Court Help:**  
[mdcourts.gov/courthelp](http://mdcourts.gov/courthelp)

## **Tips for interacting with the Maryland courts**

- Preparing for court
- Requesting or working with a court interpreter
- Remote proceedings

## **Basics on criminal and traffic**

**Common civil case types,  
including family**

## **Common procedural issues**

- Requesting fee waivers
- Filling out the restricted information form

## **Court Help Topics**



- Expungements
- Cannabis
- Evictions

## Hot Topics

## Links to common case types

- a **basic overview** of the legal topic
- **links to resources** regarding that topic
- information about which **court has jurisdiction**
- links to **applicable court forms**

## Read About the Law - Index of Court Help Topics

This page lists articles on common legal topics. These pages will provide you with some general information. Detailed legal information is available through the People's Law Library website.

### Civil Cases

[Appealing an Administrative Decision](#)  
[Appeals and Motions After Trial in the District Court](#)  
[Bad Checks](#)  
[Collecting on a Judgment](#)  
[Discovery in the Circuit Court](#)  
[Employment Issues](#)  
[Housing](#)  
[I Owe Money/Dealing with Debt](#)  
[Judgments & Debt Collection](#)  
[Land Records](#)  
[Life Planning and Power of Attorney](#)  
[Mandamus](#)  
[Money Issues](#)  
[Return of Property](#)  
[Small Claims](#)  
[Someone Owes Me Money](#)  
[What to Do if You Are Sued in District Court](#)  
[Wills and Estates](#)

### Criminal Cases

[Cleaning Up Your Record](#)  
[Criminal Cases - General Information](#)  
[Expungement](#)  
[Shielding Criminal Records](#)

### Family Cases

### Other

[Access to Court Records](#)  
[Appeals to the Appellate Court of Maryland](#)  
[Restricted Information Form](#)

### Resources

[Accommodations](#)  
[Court Forms](#)  
[Court Help App](#)  
[Court Help Centers](#)  
[Court Help Videos](#)  
[Family Court Help Centers](#)  
[Filing Fee Waivers](#)  
[Finding Legal Help](#)  
[Guide and File](#)  
[Language Needs](#)  
[Mediation and ADR](#)  
[People's Law Library](#)  
[Remote Hearing Toolkit](#)  
[The Thurgood Marshall State Law Library](#)  
[Webinars](#)

### Traffic

Read about a legal topic:  
[mdcourts.gov/courthelp/lawtopics](http://mdcourts.gov/courthelp/lawtopics)



## Maryland Court Help

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.

### Court Help Portal

This portal is designed to help you navigate the court process.

What do you want to do?

I would like to start a court case

Select a case type ▾

I need to work on my court case

I want to ▾

I need help with the papers I was served

Click on the option that matches all or part of the title on the papers you received.

I received ▾

I need information on a legal topic

Choose a topic ▾

I want to look up a court case

Search now

I need other information

I want to ▾

The **new portal** will better organize the myriad of Court Help topics for easier navigation and use!

# Court Help Portal

## Articles

- Civil law topics most often encountered by MD residents

## Explanations

- Common steps in the process of a legal situation

## Connections

- Legal Services Directory
- Legal Clinic Calendar
- Court Help Centers
- Law Libraries

The screenshot shows the homepage of The People's Law Library of Maryland. At the top, there is a banner with the library's name and a photo of several people. Below the banner, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, HOW DO I...?, LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY, LEGAL CLINIC CALENDAR, RESEARCH TOPICS, and ABOUT. A language selection dropdown shows "English". On the left side, there is a sidebar with a "Search" field and a "HOW DO I...?" section containing links for Evaluate My Situation, Alternatives to Court, Get Help, Legal Research, Start/Respond to a Case, Discovery and Evidence, Prepare for Court, Judgments, and Appeals. In the center, there is a "LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY" section with a search form for Keyword, County, and Category, and a "FIND A SERVICE PROVIDER" button. To the right, there is a "MARYLAND COURT HELP CENTER" section with a map and links for Call or Chat and In-Person help. Below these are sections for RESEARCH TOPICS (Consumer, Criminal, Domestic Violence, Education, Employment), HOW DO I...? (with a link to more information), and a "LEGAL CLINIC CALENDAR" section with an "UPCOMING EVENTS" button. At the bottom, there is a "ASK A MARYLAND LAW LIBRARIAN" section with a "CLICK HERE" button.

**The People's Law Library:**  
peoples-law.org

# Research Topics

HOW DO I...?



CONSUMER



CRIMINAL



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT



FAMILY LAW



GOVERNMENT BENEFITS & SERVICES



LANDLORD - TENANT



LIFE AND HEALTH PLANNING



OTHER LEGAL ISSUES



REAL ESTATE AND OTHER  
HOUSING



WILLS - ESTATES - PROBATE



YOUTH LAW



The People's Law Library: [peoples-law.org](http://peoples-law.org)

The People's Law Library

English ▾

Main Menu ▾

Search Search

Related Articles & Other Resources

Quick Exit

Domestic Violence

- > Protective Orders and Peace Orders
- > Protective Orders

Protective Orders

**6: Temporary Protective Order Hearing.**

You must attend a Temporary Protective Order hearing to extend the length and scope of protection contained in the Interim Protective Order. If the other side has not received a copy (i.e. been served), the Court will issue a Temporary Protective Order and serve the abuser with notice of the final hearing.

Read the Law: Md. Code, Family Law ("Fam. Law") § 4-504 and 4-504.1

- Step #2: Temporary Protective Order - Obtaining immediate protection during court business hours
- Step #3: Final Protective Order – Obtaining long-term protection
- Domestic Violence - A 6-Part Video Series (from the Maryland Courts)

**Protective Order Generally**

In Maryland, you can obtain an order of

## Legal Services Directory

Keyword

ywca

County

Anne Arundel

Category

Domestic Violence

FIND A SERVICE PROVIDER

This is a listing of free and low cost legal service providers in Maryland. We also have a page with [resources](#) for people looking for mediators, self-help centers, fee-based legal assistance, as well as a listing of non-legal social services providers. The Thurgood Marshall State Law Library has a [listing](#) of the public law libraries in the state.

Organization Name	Phone	Website	Service County
YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County	410-626-7800	<a href="https://www.annapolisywca.org/">https://www.annapolisywca.org/</a>	Anne Arundel

## Finding Further Assistance

## YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

### Organization Description

The YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County offers a variety of programming to meet the social, emotional, educational and recreational needs of women and girls in the greater Annapolis area.

### PROGRAM DETAILS

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSISTANCE



#### Website

[YWCA](#)

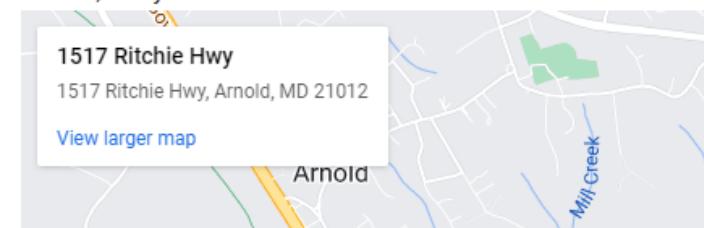
#### Phone, Office

410-626-7800

#### Address

1517 Ritchie Highway Suite 201

Arnold, Maryland 21012



## Finding Further Assistance

## Legal Clinic Calendar

Topic Court Help      County Baltimore       Filter

Clinic Name	Date and Time	County	Venue
Baltimore County Virtual Family Help	Wed, 05/08/2024 - 8:30 am to Wed, 05/08/2024 - 3:30 pm	Baltimore	Baltimore County Circuit Court
Catonsville District Court Help Center	Wed, 05/08/2024 - 8:30 am to Wed, 05/08/2024 - 4:30 pm	Baltimore	Catonsville District Court for Baltimore County
Lawyer in the Library- Baltimore County - Woodlawn Branch	Wed, 05/08/2024 - 4:00 pm to Wed, 05/08/2024 - 6:00 pm	Baltimore	Woodlawn Library

## Finding Further Assistance

## Lawyer in the Library- Baltimore County - Woodlawn Branch

One-on-One Civil Legal Advice - FREE help for your civil legal issues including:

- Bankruptcy
- Child Custody & Support
- Debt Collection
- Expungements
- Foreclosure
- Government Benefits
- Landlord/Tenant
- Veterans' Benefits
- Wage Claims

First come, first served. No appointment necessary.

Attendees must wear masks and practice social distancing.

### Clinic URL

[MD Legal Aid](#)

Where

Woodlawn Library



# Finding Further Assistance

## Help Centers

- Staffed by **attorneys** who provide guidance/advice in a limited capacity

## Law Libraries

- Staffed by **librarians** who can find information to supplement a direct request for more knowledge in a particular area of law

### MARYLAND COURT HELP CENTER

Free legal help with your civil matter.

8:30 am - 8:00 pm, Mon - Fri

Call or Chat



410-260-1392

In-Person



### ASK A MARYLAND LAW LIBRARIAN

Submit a legal information question to the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

[CLICK HERE](#)

## Finding Further Assistance

<p><b>Law Topics</b></p> <p>What is service of process? Expungement? Rent Escrow? Each video in this series tackles a specific legal subject.</p>  <p><a href="#">Learn More &gt;&gt;</a></p>	<p><b>Court Basics</b></p> <p>From filing fees to court interpreters, videos in this series deliver fundamentals on how the court operates.</p>  <p><a href="#">Learn More &gt;&gt;</a></p>	<p><b>Family</b></p> <p>Videos on family matters, including Child Custody, Child Welfare, and Divorce.</p>  <p><a href="#">Learn More &gt;&gt;</a></p>	<p><b>Guardianship</b></p> <p>Considering becoming a guardian? Have you been appointed? This video series has the information you need for success.</p>  <p><a href="#">Learn More &gt;&gt;</a></p>	<p><b>Get Started</b></p> <p>Should you represent yourself? Or should you get a lawyer? These videos help get you on track to self-representation.</p>  <p><a href="#">Learn More &gt;&gt;</a></p>
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- Gain a **basic understanding of a legal topic** before seeking legal assistance
- **Videos on court basics** and procedural and substantive topics
- Each video page has links to a **tip or fact sheet, transcript, and court information**
- **Spanish captioning** available

# Court Help Video Library:

[mdcourts.gov/video](http://mdcourts.gov/video)

## Find which family law form you need

(Case types include child custody, child support, divorce, marriage, domestic violence.)



Family Law Forms Finder

[Learn More >>](#)

## Find which District Court form you need

(Case types include civil, criminal, peace/protective order, traffic, and expungement.)



District Court Forms Finder

[Learn More >>](#)



### District Court Forms

#### 1. General Information

Answer the following questions to identify, select and print the forms you will need to handle your case in District Court. Do not use this tool if you want to ask the court for an expungement.

##### \* 1. What do you want to do today?

- I want to start a court case.
- I want to file papers or ask the court to do something in a case that already exists.
- See a list of all District Court forms.

[Next](#)

# Court Forms Finder:

[mdcourts.gov/courtforms/finder](http://mdcourts.gov/courtforms/finder)

## Use filters to narrow down forms:

Does an SRL already know what form they need?

SRLs can use the **Court Form Search bar** to find forms!

The screenshot shows a search interface for court forms. On the left, there is a sidebar with filter options: 'Brochure Filter' (with a 'Choose' dropdown), 'Court Filter' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Type Filter' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Language Filter' (with a dropdown arrow), and 'County Filter' (with a dropdown arrow). To the right of the sidebar is a main search area. At the top of this area is a small icon of a gavel and the text 'Use the Court Forms Finder to help identify, select and print forms.' Below this are search fields for 'Search' and 'Last Revised Between' (with 'Min' and 'Max' input fields). There is also an 'Advanced options' link and a 'Sort by' dropdown set to 'Title A-Z'. At the bottom right is a red 'Apply' button.

**Court Forms Search:**  
[mdcourts.gov/forms](http://mdcourts.gov/forms)

#### Guide & File Interview Index

Click on the box (Form No.: Legal Issue) listed below for the form you would like to use the Guide & File application to complete (filing options are also included). New interview topics will be added as they become available.

#### Family Issues

CC-DR-001: I want to file for child support.



CC-DR-004: I want custody of a child.



CC-DR-020: I want to file for divorce.



CC-DR-050: I need to respond to a case filed against me involving divorce, child custody, child support, or visitation.



#### Criminal Issues

CC-DC-CR-072A/B/C/D: I want to expunge my records.



DC-099: District Court Commissioner Application for Representation by the Public Defender



#### Housing Issues

DC-CV-083: I need my landlord to make repairs.



DC-CV-116: I want to shield my failure to pay rent case records.



#### Civil Issues

- Tool to assist SRLs in **completing forms online**
- Guides SRLs through **a series of questions**, or “interview,” and copies those answers directly **into the appropriate court form**
- Completed forms can be filed in person, by mail, or electronically

**Guide and File:**  
[mdcourts.gov/guideandfile](http://mdcourts.gov/guideandfile)

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR Queen Anne's County

(City/County)

## CIVIL - DOMESTIC CASE INFORMATION REPORT

## DIRECTIONS

**Plaintiff:** This Information Report must be completed and attached to the complaint filed with the Clerk of Court unless your case is exempted from the requirement by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland pursuant to Rule 2-111(a).

**Defendant:** You must file an Information Report as required by Rule 2-323(h).

**THIS INFORMATION REPORT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AS A PLEADING**

FORM FILED BY:  PLAINTIFF  DEFENDANT CASE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (Clerk to insert)

CASE NAME: Jane Doe Plaintiff vs. John Doe Defendant

PARTY'S NAME: Jane Doe PHONE: 410-260-1126

PARTY'S ADDRESS: 1111 Nice Town Ln Nice Town, MD 11111

PARTY'S E-MAIL: alvarezkimberly65@yahoo.com

If represented by an attorney:

PARTY'S ATTORNEY'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARTY'S ATTORNEY'S ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PARTY'S ATTORNEY'S E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I am not represented by an attorney

RELATED CASE PENDING?  Yes  No If yes, Case #(s), if known: \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEADING TYPE

New Case:  Original

Existing Case:  Post-Judgment  Amendment

If filing in an existing case, skip Case Category/ Subcategory section - go to Issues section.

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Spoken Language Interpreter - Attach form CC-DC-041

If you require an accommodation for a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act - Attach form CC-DC-049

## ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION INFORMATION

Is this case appropriate for referral to an ADR process under Md. Rule 17-101? (Check all that apply)

A. Mediation  Yes  No

C. Settlement Conference  Yes  No

B. Arbitration  Yes  No

D. Neutral Evaluation  Yes  No

If no, explain why: Not necessary.

## IF NEW CASE: CASE CATEGORY/SUBCATEGORY (Check one box.)

## Domestic Family

Alimony/Spousal Support

Agency/IV-D

Change of Name

Independent Proceedings

Annulment

Child Support

Change of Name

Amend Birth Certificate

Breach

Paternity/Parentage

Adult

Change of Sex

Child Support - Private

UIFSA

Minor

Correct Death Certificate

Custody

Adoption

Declare Deceased

Divorce

Adoption - Independent

Dispose Body

Emancipation

Adoption - Private Agency

Amend Marriage Certificate

Family Legal/Medical

## Guardianship

Paternity/Parentage

Guardianship of Adult Person and/or Property

Recognition as Legal Child

Guardianship of Minor Person and/or Property

Visitation

Mark this box if this form contains Restricted Information.

MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURT FOR Queen Anne's County City/County , MARYLAND  
Located at 200 N. Commerce Street Centreville, MD 21617 Telephone 410-758-1773  
Court Address Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Jane Doe Plaintiff

1111 Nice Town Ln Street Address

Nice Town, MD 11111 City, State, Zip

410-260-1126 Telephone

alvarezkimberly65@yahoo.com E-mail

John Doe Defendant

1111 Nice Town Ln Street Address

Nice Town, MD 11111 City, State, Zip

410-260-1126 Telephone

alvarezkimberly65@yahoo.com E-mail

## COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE

(Family Law § 7-103)

MDEC counties only: If this submission contains Restricted Information (confidential by statute, rule or court order) you must file a Notice Regarding Restricted Information Pursuant to Rule 20-201.1 (form MDJ-008) with this submission, and check the Restricted Information box on this form.

NOTE: Use this form to initiate an absolute divorce case. Mark the "Restricted Information" box at the top of this or any other form you file that includes financial or other confidential information such as part of a social security or federal tax identification number. Only list the last four digits of account/ID numbers. Visit [mdcourts.gov/divorce](http://mdcourts.gov/divorce).

I, Jane Doe \_\_\_\_\_, state that:

1. The defendant and I were married on 4/18/2022 in Centreville/Queen Anne's/MD, United States in a  civil  religious ceremony.   
Country where married

## 2. Check all that apply:

I have lived in Maryland since 4/1/2022 Month/Year

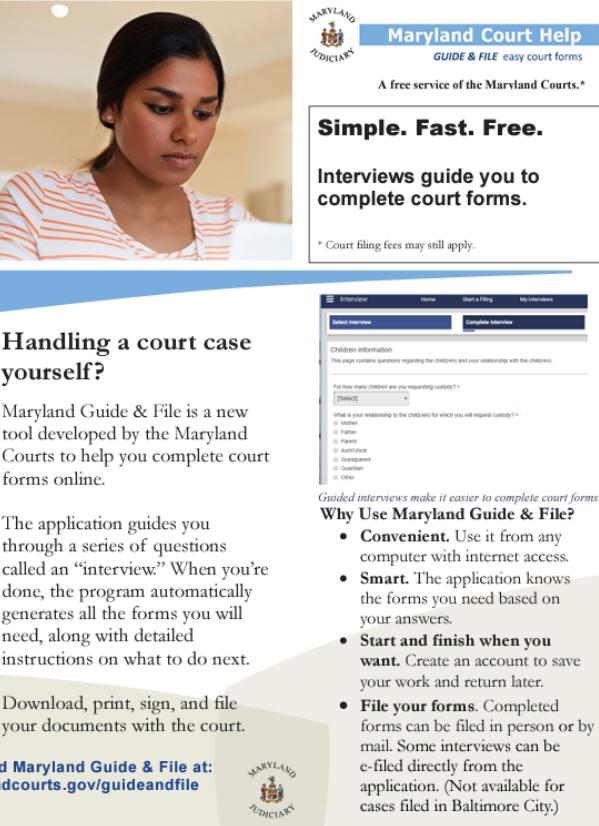
My spouse has lived in Maryland since 4/1/2022 Month/Year

The grounds, or legal reasons, for divorce occurred in Maryland.

(for a list of grounds see number 13 below)

The grounds for divorce occurred outside Maryland and either my spouse or I have been a resident of Maryland for at least six (6) months prior to the date this complaint was filed.

3. I know of the following cases, or I have been involved (as a party, witness, etc.) in the following cases about me, my spouse, or the child(ren). Examples include cases such as custody, child support, guardianship, domestic violence/protective order, paternity, divorce, visitation (child access), CINA, delinquency, termination of parental rights, adoption or other cases:



**Simple. Fast. Free.**

Interviews guide you to complete court forms.

\* Court filing fees may still apply.

**Handling a court case yourself?**

Maryland Guide & File is a new tool developed by the Maryland Courts to help you complete court forms online.

The application guides you through a series of questions called an "interview." When you're done, the program automatically generates all the forms you will need, along with detailed instructions on what to do next.

Download, print, sign, and file your documents with the court.

**Find Maryland Guide & File at:**  
[mdcourts.gov/guideandfile](http://mdcourts.gov/guideandfile)

**Resources include:**

- Getting Started –
  - Quick Reference Guide & Video
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Guide & File Flyer for Litigants

# Guide and File Resources:

[mdcourts.gov/guideandfile](http://mdcourts.gov/guideandfile)

MISSION & VISION JOBS SITE INDEX ACCESSIBILITY 

English 

**MARYLAND COURTS**  
*Fair, Efficient, & Effective Justice For All*

ENHANCED BY Google 

Opinions Search Search Tips

HOME USING THE LIBRARY RESEARCH ABOUT US PEOPLE'S LAW LIBRARY ASK A LAW LIBRARIAN



## Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

Audubon prints on display 

### Research at Your Fingertips

Welcome to the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library. We are open for visitors without an appointment.

Our public computer stations are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Staff will impose a 15-minute limit if patrons are waiting.

The internet and our databases are accessible via WiFi. If you bring a laptop, time

361 ROWE BOULEVARD  
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401  
410-260-1430 | 888-216-8156  
LAWLIBRARY@MDCOURTS.GOV

Search Catalog 

ENHANCED BY Google 

**ASK A LAW LIBRARIAN**

✉ lawlibrary@mdcourts.gov  
☎ 410-260-1430  
888-216-8156 (MD toll-free)

Library Hours

Ask a Maryland Law Librarian

# State Law Library Website

[mdcourts.gov/lawlib](http://mdcourts.gov/lawlib)

[HOME](#)[USING THE LIBRARY](#)[RESEARCH](#)[ABOUT US](#)[PEOPLE'S LAW LIBRARY](#)[ASK A LAW LIBRARIAN](#)[Visiting the Library](#)[Reference Services](#)[For Judiciary](#)[For Librarians](#)[MDEC E-Filing Support](#)[HOME](#)[USING THE LIBRARY](#)[RESEARCH](#)[ABOUT US](#)[PEOPLE'S LAW LIBRARY](#)[ASK A LAW LIBRARIAN](#)[Catalog](#)[Collections](#)[Gateway to Maryland Law](#)[Special Collections Room](#)[Databases](#)[Research Guides](#)[HOME](#)[USING THE LIBRARY](#)[RESEARCH](#)[ABOUT US](#)[PEOPLE'S LAW LIBRARY](#)[ASK A LAW LIBRARIAN](#)[About our Namesake](#)[Library Staff](#)[Public Information Act Requests](#)[History](#)[Policies and Guidelines](#)[Special Collections Room](#)[News and Reports](#)[Library Committee](#)[Conf. of Md. Law Lib. Dir.](#)

# State Law Library Website

[mdcourts.gov/lawlib](http://mdcourts.gov/lawlib)

# Gateway to Maryland Law

The Thurgood Marshall State Law Library has an extensive collection of primary and secondary sources focusing on Maryland law. Many of these resources are available online, but some require physical presence at the Library to access.

[Maryland Code](#) | [County and Municipal Codes](#) | [Court Rules](#) | [Case Law](#) | [Regulations](#) | [Attorney General Opinions](#) | [State Publications](#) | [Task Force Reports](#) | [Incorporated by Reference](#) | [Law Reviews and Journals](#)

**State Law Library Website**

[mdcourts.gov/lawlib/research/gateway-to-md-law](https://mdcourts.gov/lawlib/research/gateway-to-md-law)

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6. **Citing Maryland Law**
7. **Primary Sources of Law**
8. **State Constitution**
9. **State Legislative Law**
10. **Local Law**
11. **State Judicial Law** (Courts), including forms information
12. **State Regulatory Law** (Executive Branch and Agencies)

## Maryland Public Library Toolkit

[mdcourts.gov/lawlib/using-library/for-librarians/public-library-toolkit](http://mdcourts.gov/lawlib/using-library/for-librarians/public-library-toolkit)

## John J. Audubon's Birds of America

John James Audubon's Birds of America contains 435 life-size watercolors of North American birds. It is considered to be the archetype of wildlife illustration. [Learn more.](#)



Birds of America - Black-Throated Blue Warbler

Martenet's Map of Central and Southern Maryland

Benoît de Maillet's Telliamed

Jury Wheels

Maryland's Constitution of 1867

# Special Collections Room

[mdcourts.gov/lawlib/research/special-collections-room](http://mdcourts.gov/lawlib/research/special-collections-room)

# Free 1-hour classes taught by attorneys from the Maryland Court Help Centers

## Topics include:

- Filing for divorce
- Child custody
- Filing a case in the District Court
- Filing for expungement

## Free Online Classes (Webinars)

FREE 1-hour classes taught by attorneys from the Maryland Court Help Centers. Watch [live](#) or [on demand](#).

### Live Classes



#### Filing for Divorce in Maryland

January 19, 2023 3:00 p.m.

March 22, 2023 11:00 a.m.

[Register](#)

An attorney from the Maryland Courts Help Center will guide you through the Absolute Divorce form.



#### Child Custody

February 23, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

An attorney from the Maryland Courts Help Center will provide information about child custody laws in Maryland.

[Register](#)

### On Demand Classes



#### Responding to a Complaint for Custody in Maryland

In this class, an attorney from the Maryland Court Help Center will walk you through filling out the Answer and Counter Complaint forms.

[Watch Now](#)

# Free Legal Help Webinars: [mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/webinars](https://mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/webinars)

**Law on the Frontlines**  
*Legal Reference for Public Libraries*



## Best Practices for Legal Reference

TMSLL/CMCLLD/MdA2JC 2024 02 rev

**Law on the Frontlines**  
Legal Reference for Public Libraries

**Law on the Frontlines**  
*Legal Reference for Public Libraries*



Via Canva

Learn about:

- Access to Justice and why it matters to public libraries
- Legal reference interviews
- Resources for legal information
- Making referrals

**Law on the Frontlines**  
Legal Reference for Public Libraries

YOU ARE IN:

Research

Catalog

Gateway to Maryland Law

Databases

Research Guides

Collections

Special Collections Room

# Gateway to Maryland Law

The Thurgood Marshall State Law Library has an extensive collection of primary and secondary sources focusing on Maryland law. Many of these resources are available online, but some require physical presence at the Library to access.

[Maryland Code](#) | [County and Municipal Codes](#) | [Court Rules](#) | [Case Law](#) |  
[Regulations](#) | [Attorney General Opinions](#) | [State Publications](#) | [Task Force Reports](#) |  
[Incorporated by Reference](#) | [Law Reviews and Journals](#)

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## Maryland Code and Laws of Maryland

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Maryland Code and Rules](#)
- [Maryland County Codes](#)
- [Maryland Law Collections](#)
- [Maryland Law Reviews and Journals](#)
- [Maryland Municipal Codes](#)
- [Maryland Publications](#)
- [Scanned Collections](#)
- [Task Force Reports](#)

# Gateway to Maryland Law

# Maryland Law Libraries

Thurgood Marshall State Law Library 

## Circuit Court Law Libraries

Allegany County	Charles County 	Prince George's County 
Anne Arundel County 	Dorchester County	Queen Anne's County
Baltimore City 	Frederick County	St. Mary's County
Baltimore County 	Garrett County	Somerset County
Calvert County	Harford County	Talbot County
Caroline County	Howard County 	Washington County 
Carroll County 	Kent County	Wicomico County
Cecil County	Montgomery County 	Worcester County

 indicates the library is staffed.

## Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

Member, Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors

MDEC e-Filing Support from the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

Access: [Click here for details.](#)

Staff: Yes, full time

Address: 361 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis MD 21401

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[Holiday closures posted on Library website](#)

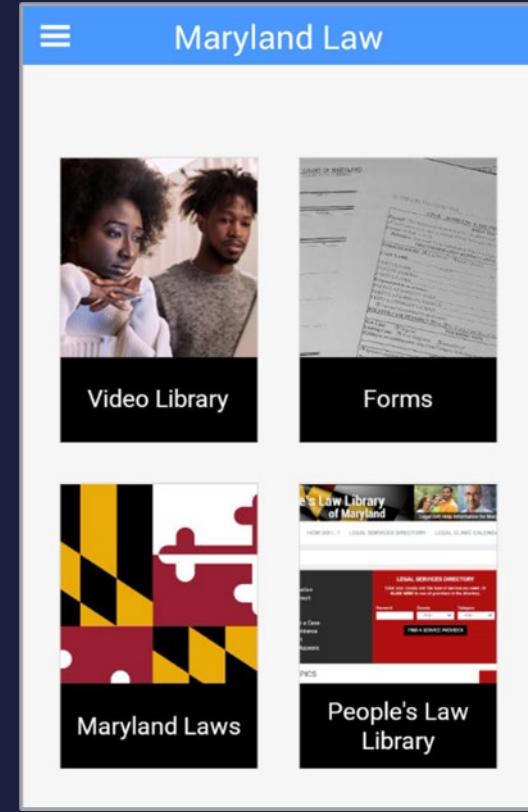
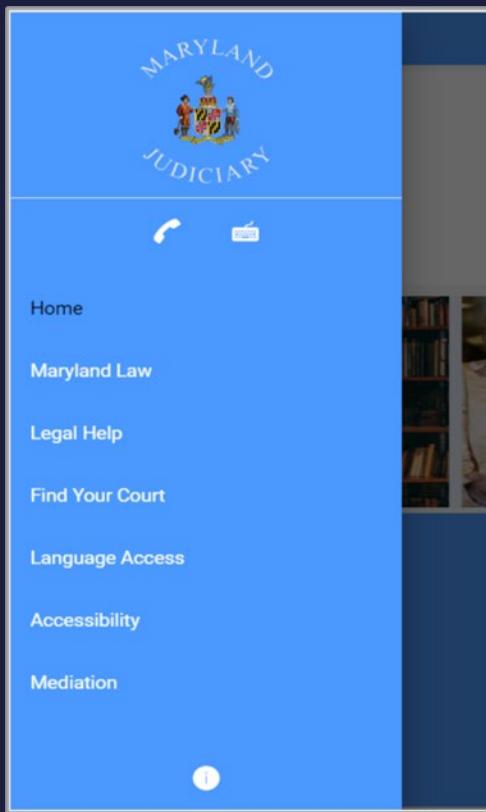
Phone: (410) 260-1430

Photocopies: Copiers available, \$.50 per page

Computers: Computers with internet access and printers are available for public use.

Printing is \$.50 per page. Wifi is available.

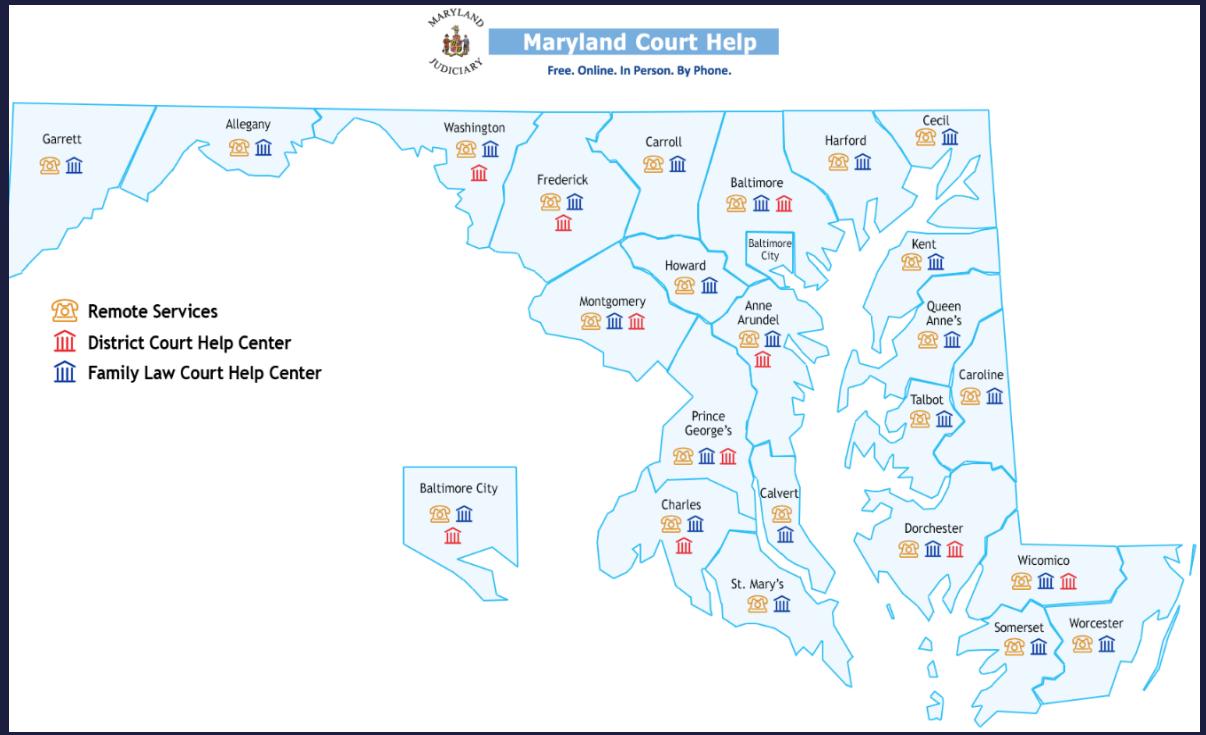
Where is your closest law library?  
[mdcourts.gov/ccl](http://mdcourts.gov/ccl)



# Maryland Court Help App

[mdcourts.gov/courthelp/mobileapp](http://mdcourts.gov/courthelp/mobileapp)

- **10 District Court Help Centers**
  - 2 “All Civil” Centers – Frederick and La Plata
- **24 Family Law Court Help Centers**
- **Call and chat are available**
  - Mon - Fri at 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM



**Maryland Court Help Centers:**  
[mdcourts.gov/helpcenter](http://mdcourts.gov/helpcenter)



## Court Language Services

### For the Public

Request an interpreter or learn how the court supports language needs

Español | Français | русский  
한국어 | 中文



[Learn More >>](#)

### Court Interpreters

Resources for court interpreters



[Learn More >>](#)

### Apply to Become a Court Interpreter

Information on how to apply for the court interpreter program



[Learn More >>](#)

### Toolkit for Judges and Court Staff

*CourtNet (Intranet)*

Tools and resources to help judges and court staff assist persons with limited English proficiency



[Learn More >>](#)

## Services include:

- Language Identification Guide
- Language Line
- Flyers, forms, brochures, and other information are available in **Spanish, French, Russian, Korean, and Chinese**
- Video Remote Interpreters
- ASL Interpreters

# Language Services & Portals: [mdcourts.gov/languageservices](http://mdcourts.gov/languageservices)

## Order copies of Access to Justice materials:

- Public Access to Court Records brochures
- Court Help Center flyers
- Flyers and pocket cards advertising the App, the Court Help Videos, and Guide & File
- Language services posters, flyers, and language line materials

### Legal Information for the Public

- [Public Access to Court Records Brochures](#)
- [Court Help Materials:](#)  
Maryland Court Help Centers (Remote Services - Phone & Chat) - 8.5x11 flier
  - [English](#)
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [French](#)
  - [Russian](#)
  - [Korean](#)
  - [Chinese](#)
  - [Amharic](#)
  - [Haitian Creole](#)
  - [Portuguese](#)

### Order Forms

- [Online Order Form: Court Help Materials](#)
- [Online Order Form: Public Access to Court Records Brochures](#)
- [Online Order Form: Court Support](#)
- [Online Order Form: Language Services](#)

## Publication Orders:

[mdcourts.gov/accesstojustice/publications](http://mdcourts.gov/accesstojustice/publications)

# What questions do you have?

## Q&A



## **Thurgood Marshall State Law Library**

## **Access to Justice**

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# **Thank you!**