

Frequently Asked Legal Questions

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If I am involved in a court case, do I need a lawyer?

You may represent yourself or hire a lawyer. The decision whether to hire a lawyer can only be made by you. The people working in the court system cannot make that decision for you and are not allowed to give legal advice. When making the decision of whether to hire a lawyer you should consider how important the case is to you and what could happen if you win or lose.

How do I get a lawyer?

Various sources provide information on lawyers. You should review that information carefully—just because lawyers are listed in the phone book or in a referral source does not guarantee their expertise.

The following referral sources are available. This list is not all inclusive, many more sources are available. Not all sources listed refer lawyers for all types of cases.

- The [Office of the State Public Defender](#), Black River Falls Trial Office, 438 North Water Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615. Tel. 715-284-9553 Fax. 715-284-7839
- The [State Bar of Wisconsin's Lawyer Referral & Information Service](#) can be reached toll free at 800-362-9082.
- [Wisconsin Judicare, Inc.](#), 300 Third Street, Suite 210, P.O. Box 6100, Wausau, WI 54402-6100. Tel. 800-472-1638 Fax. 715-848-1885.
- [Wisconsin Court System Self Help Center – Legal Assistance.](#)

Where can I access legal information?

Many sources of legal information are available. It is up to you to judge the accuracy and completeness of the information that you receive. Sources of information include the following:

- The [State Bar Association](#) provides access to lawyer referrals, free Wisconsin case law, statutes and administrative codes, legal forms and general legal information.
- The [Wisconsin State Law Library](#) provides access to legal research sources and general legal information.

- Family (divorce) Law assistance can be found through [Waukesha County Family Court Self Help](#).
- Wisconsin statutes, regulations, bills and acts are available through the [Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau](#).
- [Wisconsin Court System Self Help Center – Legal Information](#).

Where can I get the forms that are used in the court system?

Information and forms that are regularly used in the court system on a daily basis are available from the [Wisconsin Court System website](#). You should be aware that the forms are only guidelines. To use them, you may wish to consult with a lawyer. You should also be aware that the forms do not fit all possible situations and many things occur in court for which no “standard” form exists. You should therefore use the forms with caution and may want to consult with a lawyer.

Where do I go to access public records of the court system?

To access public records of the court system go to [Wisconsin Circuit Court Access](#).

Where can I find out about Clark County’s Local Rules?

The Clark County Local Rules can be viewed or downloaded [here](#).

Does Clark County have standard guidelines for child placement in family law cases?

Yes. There is a standard guideline established for periods of physical placement. It can be viewed [here](#). The policy of the court is to equalize physical placement between the parents whenever possible. Therefore a 50/50 shared placement is sought unless circumstances warrant otherwise. The guideline is designed to serve this goal. Parents are free to reach an agreement that is different from the guideline, subject to court approval, as long as the best interests of the children are not harmed. You should be aware that the guideline is only a guide. Therefore, depending upon the facts of a particular case the court may deviate from the guideline after considering the factors in Section 767.24(5) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Are there court forms that are specific to Clark County?

Yes. The forms include the following:

- [Addendum to Petition to Enforce Physical Placement Order](#)
- [Supporting Facts, Domestic Abuse Restraining Order](#)
- [Family Court Scheduling Order](#)

If I do not have a computer can I look at written copies of the forms referenced here?

Yes. Many of the forms listed here are available for review in the Clerk of Court’s Office. They are kept in binders available for review by members of the public. Copies can be purchased for a reasonable amount.

I did not find an answer here. Where else can I go?

For additional questions and answers, follow this link to the [Wisconsin Court System – Frequently asked questions](#) page.