



LEGAL BRIEF

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES AND LEGAL RESOURCES

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PREPARED BY

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LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES AND LEGAL RESOURCES

When a legal problem arises it is important to know where to turn to solve your problem. In your effort to do this you need to answer the following questions:

- (1) What is the problem and what do you want as a solution?
- (2) What are the facts surrounding the problem (who, what, when, where, why)?
- (3) How can you prove the facts (what evidence is there)?
- (4) Is there a law that will allow you to get what you want?
- (5) How do you want to resolve the problem (counseling, negotiation, hire attorney, small claims, civil court)?
- (6) Is it worth the fight? Sometimes the time, expense, impact on family, etc., just aren't worth the hassle even if everything else is in your favor.

This handout will assist you in finding the legal assistance you need in an attempt to answer these questions and, hopefully, resolve your problem. If you know that you need a lawyer and can afford one, use Sections I and V. If you are not sure or cannot afford one, use Sections II-IV.

Section I - LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES AND LAWYER LISTINGS

FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, AND RELATIVES - One of the best ways to find a good lawyer is to talk to people you know about their lawyers, their experiences, and recommendations.

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE – STATE BAR OF NEVADA (www.nvbar.org)
600 E. Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
(702) 382-0504 or (800) 789-5747

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE – AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ABA)
1-800-285-2221
<http://apps.americanbar.org/legalservices/lris/directory/>

PHONE BOOK YELLOW PAGES

Listings are under “Attorneys” or areas such as “Attorneys-Divorce.” Ads usually include areas of law practiced and often describe qualifications and special services available, such as foreign language or free initial consultations. Yellow page listings are paid advertisements.

MARTINDALE-HUBBELL LEGAL DIRECTORY

Lists the name, address, and phone of law firms, gives resumes of lawyers doing business in any particular city, and tells what areas of law they practice. Also gives a summary of the laws of each state and country.

Section II - LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGENCIES

NELLIS AFB LEGAL OFFICE – LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Legal Assistance Appointments:

Monday-Thursday 0900-1100 and 1300-1500

Friday 0900-1100 (Active Duty and accompanying spouses only)

Call (702) 652-7531

Walk-in Notaries/Power of Attorney: Monday – Friday 0900-1500

Questions or concerns, please call (702) 652-5407

Legal assistance attorneys cannot help you with your privately-owned business, official Air Force business, criminal defense, or living trusts. Services provided include simple wills, powers of attorneys, and living wills. We also advise on domestic relations, landlord/tenant, real estate, contracts, tax, personal injury, accidents, and small claims issues. Legal assistance attorneys cannot represent clients off-base.

NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES (NLS)
530 South Sixth St. Las Vegas NV 89101
(702) 386-0404
www.nlslaw.net

Legal assistance for low income individuals is provided by this private, non-profit public interest law firm funded by grants by Legal Services Corporation, United Way, Nevada Law Foundation, and District Court filing fees. NLS handles cases of public assistance and benefits, housing, landlord/tenant/ health care, contracts, consumer issues, consumer credit, and Indian law. They do not handle bankruptcy, divorce, child support, wills, or small claims. They sometimes give advice over the phone. Call to apply for help.

CLARK COUNTY LEGAL SERVICES (CCLS)/ PRO BONO PROJECT
800 South 8th St. Las Vegas NV 89101-7051
(702) 386-1070, fax (702) 366-0569
<http://www.lacsn.org/>

Civil legal assistance to low-income individuals in the areas of consumer law, social security, domestic violence, children law, HIV advocacy, legal forms, special education law, and special education surrogates. CCLS also provides free classes on small claims, bankruptcy, custody/paternity, housing, guardianship, and family law.

STATE BAR OF NEVADA
600 E. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
(702) 382-2200 or 1-800-254-2797.

The State Bar publishes brochures on “Lawyer Discipline,” “Fee Dispute Arbitration,” and “Client Security Funds.” If you have a problem with your attorney that you cannot resolve, contact the State Bar Counsel.

PUBLIC DEFENDER’S OFFICE

Federal cases	388-6577
Clark County Special Public Defender	455-6266
County	455-4685
Area Defense Counsel (Active Duty Members Only)	652-4034

If you need representation in a criminal matter, contact a Public Defender’s Office or the Lawyer Referral Service. Area Defense Counsel may only represent military members charged with a military crime. They cannot represent you if you are arrested off-base and charged in a civilian court.

SENIOR CITIZENS LAW PROJECT

310 S. 9th St., Las Vegas NV 89101
(702) 229-6596, fax (702) 384-0314

Nevada residents who are 60 or older are eligible. There is no charge for services; however, donations are accepted. Clients are responsible for filing fees and court costs. Counselors make visits to home-bound senior citizens when necessary. They handle simple wills, social security disputes, health care planning, living wills, powers of attorney, landlord/tenant disputes, small claims court instruction, homesteads, affidavit of entitlements, intervention of elder abuse matters, legal advice, information and referrals. They do not handle traffic citations, criminal matters, malpractice, divorces, bankruptcy, living trusts, fee generating cases, guardianship, or real estate transactions.

NEIGHBORHOOD JUSTICE CENTER (NJC)

Clark County Social Services, 330 S 3rd St, Suite 600, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
(702) 455-3898

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The NJC helps residents of Clark County resolve conflicts, at no cost, through a comprehensive information and referral program and through mediation services. NJC counselors are familiar with local resources and assist citizens by defining the dispute and directing the citizen to an appropriate resource. NJC provides mediation services for neighborhood, family, consumer/merchant, employer/employee, landlord/tenant, and doctor/patient disputes. They will not take cases involving violence,

or involuntary participation in the mediation. NJC will not provide legal advice or attorneys. There is no income requirement.

INSURANCE CASES

If you have insurance, such as for an auto accident, check with your insurance company; your policy or your company may provide you an attorney.

FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
1900 E. Flamingo Rd Suite 100, Las Vegas, NV 89119
(702) 671-9200

If you know who both parents are or if the father's name is on the birth certificate, or if one parent lives out of state, call 455-5840 (URES division). If you only know who one of the parents is, call 455-5740 (Paternity division). Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Information they offer: Filing for child support, child support issues, paternity issues, outreach program, other state child support agencies, and other local agencies.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, STATE OF NEVADA
Grant Sawyer Blvd., 555 E. Washington Ave. suite 3900, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
(702) 486-3420, fax (702) 486-3768.

The Attorney General's Office can help you with consumer issues such as consumer fraud and unfair business practices.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSUMER ADVOCATES

www.naca.net

The National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA) provides a great deal of information on their website for individuals with legal issues concerning virtually any kind of commercial or consumer issue. They also have a listing of attorneys available nationwide to take on these kinds of cases at low or no cost.

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Regional Representative, 50 United Nations Plaza, Room 450, San Francisco, California 94102
(415) 437-8400
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>

NEVADA CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

1470 College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89706
(775) 684-0705; (702) 486-1646; (800) 992-0900

Section III - SELF HELP

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

If you would like to research the law or represent yourself, you may find helpful information at public libraries. Copies of the United States Code and Nevada Statutes are available at most major libraries. Many legal forms are available at most libraries in the Official Handbook of Nevada Legal Forms. Forms are also available at many office supply stores, stationary and legal forms stores.

FAMILY LAW SELF HELP CENTER

601 N. Pecos Rd.

Las Vegas NV 89101

(702) 455-1500

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Do-it-yourself forms for family law matters

http://www.clarkcountycourts.us/shc/Supporting%20Documents/self_help_supportingdocs.html

The family law self help center provides information on the Family Court System, Nevada family law, court procedures, filing documents, legal reference materials and community agencies. The Center offers packets on legal issues which are broken down into scenarios best adapted to match your situation. For more information call: (702) 455-1500.

CLARK COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

309 South Third Street, Suite 400, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155

(702) 455-4696; (702) 455-5120

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed Sundays and Holidays

Open to the public, with over 48,000 volumes of law books including federal and state statutes.

USA GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

<http://publications.usa.gov/>

This website has free handbooks on a variety of topics, including the ones listed below:

Mortgages and Rentals

Automobile Purchases

Consumer Protection

Family Law Issues

Federal Benefits

Immigration

Loans and Debts

Section IV – UNLV THOMAS & MACK LEGAL CLINIC

The William Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada Las Vegas offers free legal representation by third year law students in the areas of immigration, child welfare, and juvenile justice. This program occurs during the regular academic year – From August until May. For qualifications necessary to receive this free legal representation please call 702-895-2080 to schedule an interview. Students are limited in their case loads so interviews should be scheduled as soon as possible.

Section V - DIRECTORY OF OTHER LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGENCIES

Better Business Bureau	(702) 320-4500
Child and Family Services	(775) 684-4400
Child Protective Services (hot line)	(702) 399-0081
Financial Guidance Center	(702) 364-0344
Contractor Board, State	(702) 486-1100
County Recorder (deeds, records)	(702) 455-4336
Domestic Violence/Crisis Shelter	(702) 646-4981
Equal Rights for Divorced Fathers	(702) 387-6266
Family Mediation Assessment Center	(702) 455-4186
Immigration (info line)	(800) 375-5283
Immigration (military specific help)	(877) 247-4645
Injured Workers, Nevada Attorney for	(702) 486-2830
Nevada Legal News (notices)	(702) 382-2747
Protective orders	(702) 455-3400
Public Administrator (probate)	(702) 455-2650
Senior Citizen Protective Services	(702) 455-7051/(888) 729-0571
Sexual Assault Center (hot line)	(702) 366-1640

Section VI - QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR LAWYER

Your relationship with your lawyer is important. You must trust your lawyer and you must be open and honest with your lawyer. Ask questions to learn about your lawyer, your lawyer's practice, and how your lawyer intends to handle your case. You should know the answers to the questions below, and have a good start on the six questions on page one of this handout after your first meeting with your lawyer.

1. Do I really need a lawyer or should I go somewhere else for help?
2. Where did you go to law school; where are you licensed; how long have you been practicing law?
3. What percentage of your practice is devoted to cases like mine; what experience do you have in this area of law; what are your main areas of practice?
4. Will you personally work on my case; what parts will you delegate to an associate or Paralegal assistant?
5. What documents or other information do you need from me?
6. Is there any other evidence that I can help you get?
7. Are there any non-legal issues you would advise me to consider?
8. How will you keep me notified about the progress of my case?
9. Will you be available to me by phone or for a follow-up appointment if I need to talk with you again?
10. How long should it take to finish my case; what might slow it down?
11. Can we settle, negotiate, mediate, or arbitrate my case?

12. What services do you provide for a flat fee; what are your hourly rates?
13. Do you accept contingency fee arrangements; how do they work; what percentage do you keep; What do you include in the base amount that you take a percentage of?
14. What costs can I expect in addition to your fee?
15. Do you require a retainer or deposit in advance; How often do I have to pay you?
16. Can we enter into a written fee agreement?
17. What, roughly is it going to cost?
18. When will I hear from you next?

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PAMPHLET IS OF A GENERAL NATURE AND IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE AND CONVENIENCE. IT IS NOT INTENDED AS LEGAL ADVICE AND IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR LEGAL COUNSEL. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AS TO HOW THE LAW IN THIS AREA AFFECTS YOU OR YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS, CONTACT A CIVILIAN ATTORNEY OR THE NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE LEGAL OFFICE FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH A LICENSED ATTORNEY.