

Frequently Asked Questions about the Michigan Legal Help Website

www.MichiganLegalHelp.org

1. What is the Michigan Legal Help website?

The Michigan Legal Help website contains free information about Michigan law for people who need to represent themselves in simple legal matters. It contains articles, automated forms, toolkits and checklists to help guide you through common legal processes. The website can also help you find a local attorney and self-help center where you can obtain more assistance.

2. Can I get legal advice from the website?

No. The website can provide you with information and not legal advice. Only lawyers can provide legal advice. The website is not a substitute for hiring a lawyer. If you need more help than you can get on the website, you may want to talk to a lawyer. The website cannot refer you to a specific lawyer, but it has links to help you find a lawyer in your area.

3. Can the website also help the opposing party in my case?

Yes. Because the website does not provide legal advice and is open to the general public, the party on the other side of your case may also use the website to get legal information.

4. What kind of help can I get from the website?

You can get information about Michigan laws and procedures from the website. The website cannot tell you how you should complete your court documents, but it contains information and instructions that are helpful. The website can also help you understand court processes and direct you to other resources, such as shelters for victims of domestic violence or other community organizations.

5. What legal areas are covered by the website?

The website includes information about family law, protection from abuse, housing issues, consumer law problems, income tax, setting aside a criminal conviction or juvenile adjudication, and public benefits. The website does not cover all areas of law, but more content is being added regularly.

6. Does the website have content in any languages besides English?

Not yet. In the future, there may be other language content.

7. Do I have to download the website or sign in? Will it work on my mobile device?

This is a website, not an application, so you do not have to download anything. You can use the website anytime you have access to the Internet by going to michiganlegalhelp.org. There is no need to sign in or register – just visit and begin browsing. The site is accessible on a mobile device, such as a smart phone or a tablet.

8. What if I do not have a computer or device that connects to the Internet?

You can use a computer at a self-help center, a library or any local organization that provides computers for the community to use.

9. What if I have trouble navigating the website?

The welcome video and tutorial on the home page will introduce you to the website and everything it provides. There is also a User's Guide that you can view by clicking the link at the bottom of the website. Live Help is expected to be added in 2013, and you will be able to chat online with a navigator to get help using the website. If your community has a self-help center, staff there may also be able to help you.

10. How do I know that the information on this website is accurate?

The information on this website has been reviewed by attorneys, and all automated forms have been tested to make sure everything works correctly. If you find a problem or have a suggestion for improvements, please use the feedback links on the website to share your thoughts.

11. Who sponsors the website?

The Michigan Legal Help website and affiliated local self-help centers are part of the Michigan Legal Help Program. The Program works with judges, bar associations, legal aid, local self-help centers, libraries and others to promote coordinated and quality assistance for self-represented persons in Michigan.

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