

Rotary Club of Madison

LEGAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES
for Rotary Scholars and their mentors

Your Legal Rights and Responsibilities

<http://www.wisbar.org/forPublic/INeedInformation/Documents/WisconsinLawBooklet.pdf>

Information about law and common situations

Common Legal Questions

The State Bar of Wisconsin brings together the expertise of Wisconsin lawyers to answer commonly asked legal questions and provide resources about Wisconsin law in easy-to-understand language.

Topics:

- [Agriculture](#)
- [Alternative Dispute Resolution](#)
- [Arrest](#)
- [Attorneys/Fees](#)
- [Bankruptcy](#)
- [The Bill of Rights: An Introduction](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Buying/Selling Real Estate](#)
- [Child Support/Residential Custody/Placement](#)
- [Client's Bill of Rights](#)
- [Courts](#)
- [Divorce](#)
- [Drunk Driving](#)
- [English as a Second Language](#)
- [Guardians Ad Litem](#)
- [Health Care](#)

- [Landlord/Tenant](#)
- [Marriage/Marital Property](#)
- [Mediation](#)
- [Personal Injury](#)
- [Powers of Attorney](#)
- [Probate](#)
- [Revocable Living Trusts](#)
- [Traffic Accidents](#)
- [Wills/Estate Planning](#)
- [Young Adults & Teens](#)

Self-help law center

The Wisconsin courts self-help law center is designed to help you find forms, learn about Wisconsin law and court procedures and represent yourself in some court matters. The information provided here is not a substitute for legal advice.

Information is available for the following topics:

- [Divorce and family law](#)
- [Small claims](#)
- [Name change](#)
- [Juvenile](#)
- [Probate](#)
- [Domestic violence](#)
- [How the courts work](#)
- [Representing yourself in court](#)
- [Fees and filing information](#)
- [Appealing a municipal or circuit court decision](#)
- [Complaints](#)
- [County resources](#)

Tenant Resource Center

The Tenant Resource Center is a nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to promoting positive relations between rental housing consumers (tenants) and providers (landlords) throughout Wisconsin. By providing information and referrals, education about rental rights and responsibilities, and access to conflict resolution, we empower the community to obtain and maintain quality affordable housing.

<http://www.tenantresourcecenter.org>

Foreclosure Prevention

The following organizations provide information, referrals, legal assistance or mediation services to homeowners.

- [Wisconsin Foreclosure Mediation Network](#)
- [Milwaukee Foreclosure Mediation Program](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Justice - Consumer Protection](#)
- [Wisconsin State Law Library](#)
- [WHEDA](#)
- [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Loan Office](#)
- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

Divorce [video]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjxygmlo11A&list=PL82C616DAF8B88A8D>

State Law Library

<http://wilawlibrary.gov>

Wisconsin Court System

<https://wicourts.gov/contact/directories.htm>

Wisconsin law

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes>

Immigration and legal presence

Jewish Social Services of Madison

<http://jssmadison.org/services/immigration/>

Jewish Social Services of Madison is a non-profit human services agency that provides compassionate and effective support services for individuals and families. Inspired by the values of Jewish tradition, JSS serves people of all ages, religions, backgrounds and lifestyles, with a strong commitment to the Jewish community.

Accredited Representative can prepare and submit a broad range of immigration applications and is able to represent immigrants during interviews at the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office in Milwaukee. Below are some of the services offered. Please call the Immigration Legal Services staff to discuss the specifics of your particular case.

FAMILY VISA PETITIONS

JSS assists people living abroad in obtaining immigrant visas so they may unite with family members already living in the U.S. Waiting times differ depending on the preference category. See Visa Bulletin for details.

ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS

JSS assists people living in the U.S. who are eligible to adjust their status (apply for a 'green card'). It is important to discuss your case in detail in order to determine if you are eligible for this immigration benefit.

CONSULAR VISA PROCESSING

For certain immigrants both inside and outside the U.S., the final stage of the process requires a visit to the American Consulate abroad. The Authorized Representative can help prepare the documentation necessary for consular visa appointments.

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

<http://jssmadison.org/contact/>

CLINIC

Jewish Social Services is a CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.) subscriber. We serve low-income immigrants by providing legal immigration services. To learn more about CLINIC, go to: <https://cliniclegal.org/>.

VISA Bulletin

The visa bulletin summarizes the availability of immigrant numbers. Visa waiting times vary, depending on whether the petitioner is a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident and the relationship of the petitioner to the beneficiary. For more information about the visa bulletin, go to: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-bulletin.html>.

US CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Please visit www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis for more information.

Catholic Multicultural Center

<https://cmcmadison.org/programs-services/immigration-assistance/>

CMC attorneys provide immigration legal services by appointment only and on a sliding-fee scale basis. Client eligibility is based on household income.

Please call (608) 441-0114 to schedule an appointment.

Los abogados del CMC ofrecen servicios legales de inmigración solamente con citas y usan una escala móvil de honorarios. La elegibilidad del cliente depende de los ingresos familiares.

Favor de llamar al (608) 441-0114 para una cita.

Attorney Office Hours

Horarios de los Abogados

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Lunes a Viernes: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Christ Presbyterian Church Community Immigration Law Center

<https://cpcmadison.org/internationals/immigration-counseling/>

Supports a free immigration consultation clinic every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 2:00pm to 5:00pm, located at:

944 East Gorham Street

Madison WI 53703

608-257-4845

Metro bus #'s 2, 5, 27, 28.

Walk-ins only, no appointments, first come first served.

[English Brochure](#)

[Folleto en Español](#)

Obtaining legal advice

Lawyer Hotline

If you are looking for general legal information or an answer to a simple legal question, you may be able to get help through the hotline. The State Bar's Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) will make an appointment for a lawyer to call you back, free of charge, within a few days to briefly discuss your question.

<http://www.wisbar.org/forPublic/INeedaLawyer/Pages/Lawyer-Hotline.aspx>

American Bar Association – Free Legal Answers

This free service allows eligible Wisconsin residents to post legal questions for volunteer lawyers. Lawyers who have signed up to participate in this program select the questions that they want to answer.

<https://wi.freelegalanswers.org/>

Legal Action of Wisconsin

<http://www.legalaction.org>

Legal Action of Wisconsin provides free legal services to low income clients. Its priority practice areas and special projects include:

- Consumer Law - Mortgage foreclosures, utility shut-offs and restoration of utility services, predatory lending such as payday and car title loans, and some bankruptcies.
- Disabled Offenders Economic Security Project (DOES) - Provides disabled offenders being released from Wisconsin prisons with help securing housing, food and other benefits to help prevent them from returning to prison.
- Driver's Licenses, Professional Licenses, Criminal Records and Employment – The Road to Opportunity project at Legal Action helps clients solve many types of licensing and record problems that can be barriers to employment, such as the loss of a driver's license, an occupational license (for example, nursing, childcare provider, or school bus driver), inaccurate criminal and arrest records, child support arrears, or evictions and foreclosures. For more information call 414-278-7722 any day from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Help with driver's license recovery also is available through the The Center for Drivers License Recovery, a public-private partnership that includes Legal Action, Wisconsin Community Services, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the City of Milwaukee Municipal Court. For information call 414-297-6407 any day from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- Family Law – Protective restraining orders, divorce, custody, child support, and other family law problems for domestic violence victims.
- Government/Public Benefits (Welfare) and Health Law - Wisconsin Works (W-2), Child Care Assistance, BadgerCare, Food Stamps, Title 19 or Medicaid, Kinship Care, Unemployment Compensation and other government benefit programs.
- Housing Law – Eviction prevention and landlord-tenant problems in Public, Section 8, and private housing and foreclosure defense.
- Low Income Tax Clinic (LITC) – Federal (IRS) tax matters, including: audits and examinations, appeals, collection, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), filing status and dependents, failure to file returns innocent spouse status, and independent contractor/employees.
- Migrant Farmworkers – Employment laws, housing conditions, public benefits, unemployment compensation and other issues affecting Wisconsin's migrant farmworkers.
- SeniorLAW - SSI, Social Security, Medicare, Food Share, elder abuse and other issues affecting senior citizens in Milwaukee County.
- Social Security – Appeals of Social Security Disability (SSD-I) and Social Security (SSI) denials when private attorneys cannot be found.

Badger Law

Here you can find information about organizations that provide legal services that may be useful to you.

<http://www.badgerlaw.net/Home/PublicWeb/LegalSvcs>

Find a Lawyer

Call the State Bar of Wisconsin: 800-362-9082

<http://www.wisbar.org/forPublic/INeedALawyer/Pages/i-need-a-lawyer.aspx>

Need a Lower Cost Option?

The Modest Means Program of the State Bar of Wisconsin assists people whose income is too high to qualify for free legal services, but too low to pay a lawyer's standard rate. The Modest Means Program is run by the Lawyer Referral and Information Service at the State Bar. It attempts to match you with an attorney who has agreed to consider certain cases at a reduced rate.

<http://www.wisbar.org/forPublic/INeedaLawyer/Pages/Modest-Means.aspx>

Legal Assistance for Military Personnel

Our Legal Assistance for Military Personnel program offers a limited number of referrals to volunteer attorneys and we also provide access to other legal resources for eligible veterans, active duty military personnel, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve.

<http://www.wisbar.org/forPublic/INeedaLawyer/pages/wisconsin-legal-assistance-for-military-personnel---.aspx>

Wisconsin State Public Defenders

<http://wispd.org/index.php/client-or-prospective-client/how-do-i-qualify>

Milwaukee Lawyer Referral Service

<http://www.findmilwaukeeelawyers.org>

Wills for Heroes

Through Wisconsin's Wills for Heroes program, volunteer attorneys and support personnel participate in clinics scheduled at the request of first responder organizations around the state. At these events, volunteer lawyers prepare simple wills and other basic estate planning documents at no charge for eligible first responders and their spouses or domestic partners.

<http://www.wisbar.org/forPublic/INeedaLawyer/pages/wills-for-heroes.aspx>

Sunshine Legal Clinic

The Sunshine Legal Clinic's mission is to improve access to legal services to individuals in and around Sun Prairie, Wisconsin who could otherwise not afford an attorney.

This no cost legal clinic meets on every FIRST THURSDAY of the month from 5-7 p.m.

Come to the next session and have an opportunity to speak with an attorney and ask questions — with no fees.

Download and fill out one of the agreement documents below. Bring the form with you to the next clinic date.

- [Intake Form – Limited Scope](#) – Limited Representation Agreement
- [Spanish Intake Form](#)

Address: 1632 W. Main Street in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

Disaster Relief

General disaster assistance information

When disaster strikes, whether it is flooding, a tornado or something else, volunteer lawyers are often provide brief counsel and advice to affected individuals, families and businesses. Working together with the State Bar's Young Lawyers Division, FEMA, Wisconsin Emergency Management and others, the State Bar provides a toll free hotline for disaster victims to call, (877) WISLAW1 or (877) 947-5291.

<http://www.wisbar.org/forPublic/INeedaLawyer/pages/disaster-relief.aspx>

Matters involving federal agencies and application of federal rules

Consult United States Senator Baldwin

30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 700

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 264-5338

Senator Baldwin's state director is our Club's member Janet Piraino

Additional Legal Resources

- [ABC for Health](#)
- [AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin](#)
- [Legal Services for Immigrants - Milwaukee](#)
- [Center Against Sexual & Domestic Abuse \(CASDA\)](#)
- [Centro Legal por Derechos Humanos](#)
- [Community Justice, Inc.](#)
- [Disability Rights Wisconsin](#)
- [Kids Matter](#)
- [Legal Aid Society of Door County](#)
- [Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee](#)
- [Milwaukee Justice Center](#)
- [Wisconsin Judicare](#)
- [Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic](#)
- [UW Law School Clinics](#)

Help with food, clothing, shelter, medicine or other services

Call 2-1-1

<http://211.org>