



# DCLRC Docket

November 2004

A Publication of the Dane County Legal Resource Center

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## Election 2004: Voter Resources

Election Day is fast approaching - are you ready to cast your vote November 2nd?

In addition to the information presented below, the Wisconsin State Law Library website's [Legal Topic "Voting"](#) contains a variety of resources on politics and elections.



**How Do I Vote?** To vote in Wisconsin, you must be registered. However, you may register at your polling place on election day, but be sure to bring proper identification with proof of residence. For more information, see [Wisconsin Vote](#) or the [City of Madison Election Information](#).

**Where Do I Vote?** [City of Madison polling locations](#)  
Dane County residents living outside of Madison should visit [this site](#).

If you know you will be unable to make it to the polls on November 2nd, you may apply for an absentee ballot from your municipal clerk. Information and applications are available at the [City of Madison Election Information site](#).

### For Whom Can I Vote?

To find out which candidates will be appearing on your ballot this election day, check out the [Wisconsin Vote Candidates page](#). By entering your address, you can learn to which districts you belong and view a list of candidates for each race.

### For Whom Should I Vote?

There are many web sites that contain information on the candidates. Below are a few sites of interest to local voters and elections:

[Madison City Channel Know Your Candidate](#) has plenty of information about the local candidates running for election.

League of Women Voters: Dane County ["Candidates' Answers"](#) provides information and responses to questions posed to each candidate as well as voting information.

Nationally, there are numerous websites with information about candidates. One example is [CNN's "Inside Politics"](#) page.

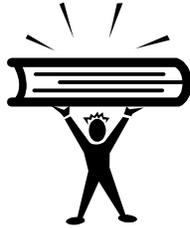
\*The format for this article was "borrowed" from an October 2000 UW-Law Library Newsletter article by Bonnie Shucha.

## November Used Book Sale

All **Biographies** are 50 cents off in our ongoing used book sale held in the library. New titles arrive each week. Be sure to stop in regularly to view our selection! Cleaning out your home library? Donate your books to DCLRC! We'll accept all books for our monthly book sale: Hardcover, novels, nonfiction, and paperbacks. Drop off your donations in room 315 any time we're open.

## Upcoming Events & News

**Free Legal Information Sessions** are held monthly on various topics related to legal research or court procedures. Presented by DCLRC staff in Room 315 of the Courthouse, no legal advice is given at these sessions. The public is welcome to attend. Contact us for more information, 266-6316 or [dclrc.ref@wicourts.gov](mailto:dclrc.ref@wicourts.gov). The November session is the last one until spring.



**November 11, 12:15-1 p.m.:** Who ya' gonna call? Finding legal services/resources in Dane County

- Covers the resources and services that are available for the public that are free or low-cost. Information about these services does not denote endorsement.

A free **Legal Research in a Nutshell Class** will be held in Room 226 of the courthouse (210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Madison) **1-3 pm** on **Friday November 19**. Open to the public, this class covers the basic resources used in performing legal research in Wisconsin. Instructors are not attorneys and will not give legal advice. Space is limited, so reserve a spot by calling (608) 266-6316.

A new assistance program, **“Divorce Court Assistance Project: DCAP,”** has begun in the Courthouse. DCAP is a University of Wisconsin Law School program. Law students (supervised by a clinical law professor) work with unrepresented litigants on the divorce process **free of charge**. They can help organize information, complete and review forms, and will offer numerous workshops on divorce-related issues. Watch for more information about this new assistance program. The students will supply no legal advice or advocacy. Contact DCAP at (608) 262-2301.



### End Notes

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter via email, reply to this message with “no thanks” in the message. Call the Legal Resource Center if you no longer want this newsletter via postal mail.

Comments about this newsletter are welcome. Please contact the library at (608) 266-6316 or [aula.seeger@wicourts.gov](mailto:aula.seeger@wicourts.gov). If you think others would enjoy this newsletter, feel free to forward it.

If you enjoyed this newsletter, you may also like to sample our other newsletters available via email only.

*DCLRC Diversions* is a weekly or daily (you choose!) morning email filled with general and legal-related trivia and fun facts.

*Legal Research Tips* is a monthly newsletter filled with valuable information about performing your own legal research.

*Internet Tips* offers helpful shortcuts and information for both beginners and advanced Internet users and includes a useful web link with each month's issue. Please contact us for a sample issue or subscription.

## Reference Question of the Month

**Q: Is it true that adoption of a minor child requires termination of the biological parents' rights in Wisconsin?**

A: Your question is timely as November is [Adoption Awareness Month](#). According to [Wisconsin Statute § 48.41](#), there are several criteria that allow a child present in Wisconsin to be adopted:

- (1) Both of the child's parents are deceased.
- (2) The parental rights of both of the child's parents with respect to the child have been terminated under subch. VIII or in another state or a foreign jurisdiction.
- (3) The parental rights of one of the child's parents with respect to the child have been terminated under subch. VIII or in another state or a foreign jurisdiction and the child's other parent is deceased.
- (4) The person filing the petition for adoption is the spouse of the child's parent with whom the child and the child's parent reside and either of the following applies:
  - (a) The child's other parent is deceased.
  - (b) The parental rights of the child's other parent with respect to the child have been terminated under subch. VIII or in another state or a foreign jurisdiction.
- (5) Section 48.839 (3) (b) applies.
- (6) The child is being readopted under s. 48.97.

Subsequent sections mention who may adopt and what the proper court procedure is for adoption. In addition, in Dane County, the Probate Court handles adoption and has several resources on [their website](#). Still more adoption-related information can be found on the WI State Law Library's website under [Legal Topic “Adoption.”](#)