

Low-Cost Legal Assistance in Dane County

**This list is also available online at: <http://www.wsl.state.wi.us/branch/dclrc/pub/dclegalassist.pdf>

Advocacy and Benefits Counseling for Health (ABC for Health)

152 W. Johnson St. Suite 200

Madison, WI 53703-2213

Phone: (608) 261-6939

Fax: (608) 261-6938

Email: info@safetyweb.org

Legal Assistance: Counseling on application or appeals process for many public benefits programs. Legal consultation and representation when informal advocacy and health benefits counseling fails to resolve a problem. Services include *Health Benefits Counseling, Legal Services for Health Care Financing, Covering Kids and Families MAP Projects, Professional Training and Consultation, Public Information Services, Health System Research and Advocacy.*

Eligibility: Children and families, particularly those with special health care needs or with problems accessing health care.

Costs: Free services if income levels are met. If income levels are not met, fees are determined on a sliding scale basis.

Staff: In-house counsel, volunteer attorneys

Website at <http://www.safetyweb.org/>

AIDS Network

600 Williamson Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Phone: (608) 252-6540 ext. 37 or 1-800-486-6276

Fax: (608) 252-6559

Email: dguinn@aidsnetwork.org

Legal Assistance: AIDS Network provides advocacy, information and referrals for individuals living with HIV/AIDS who financially qualify for services. Interviews are conducted to determine eligibility for legal services. Eligible clients are assisted by legal staff or referred to volunteer or reduced rate attorneys when available, depending on agency resources and the legal issue. Information and referral is provided with respect to a wide range of issues, including housing, employment, public benefits, estate planning, health benefits, family, bankruptcy/debt, consumer, civil rights, and confidentiality.

Eligibility: People living with HIV/AIDS living below 300% of the federal poverty level.

Staff: One or two staff attorneys who work with a panel of over 100 volunteer attorneys.

Website at: <http://www.aidsnetwork.org/legal.html>

Business Assistance Program of the State Bar of Wisconsin

P.O. Box 7158

Madison, WI 53707-7158

Phone: (608) 250-6006

Fax: (608) 257-5502

Legal Assistance: Up to two hours of free consultation with a business attorney on areas such as business organization and planning, taxes, employee benefits, intellectual property, labor law, environmental law, etc.

Eligibility: Small and emerging businesses in Wisconsin. Services provided regardless of financial status.

Staff: Volunteer business attorneys

Web information at <http://www.legalexplorer.com/bap>

Case Mediation Program

Dane County Bar Association Attn: Le Jordan
PO Box 44008
Madison, WI
Phone: (608) 848-1477
Fax: (608) 848-9266
Email: mediate@dcba.net

Legal Assistance: Volunteer attorneys mediate civil and family law cases (financial issues only) filed in Dane or Columbia County Circuit Courts through voluntary or court ordered mediation.

Eligibility: Open to all parties with litigation pending in the Dane or Columbia County Circuit Courts.

Costs: \$75.00 per party payable to the Case Mediation Program

Staff: Volunteer attorneys who are members of Dane County Bar Association.

Website at <http://dcba.net/programs/CaseMediationProgram.html>

Center for Patient Partnerships

University of Wisconsin Law School
975 Bascom Mall, Suite 4311
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: (608) 265-6267
Fax: (608) 265-4332
Email: cpp@law.wisc.edu

Legal Assistance: Information and links to a wide variety of sources of support for patients. Helping patients with cancer and other serious or chronic diseases make informed decisions and get the care they need. Patient "advocacy" will focus on problem solving and communication to help patients and providers make good decisions together, and for patients to then get access to the desired care or treatment. The Center will not litigate on behalf of patients.

Eligibility: Patients with cancer or other serious chronic or life-threatening illnesses.

Staff: Medical and Nursing School Faculty who are experts in health policy and management.

Website at: <http://www.law.wisc.edu/patientadvocacy/>

Centro Hispano of Dane County

810 W Badger Rd.
Madison, WI 53713
Phone: (608) 255-3018
Fax: (608) 255-2975

Legal Assistance: Offers bilingual assistance in the areas of family law, immigration law and other civil litigation. Nuevas Rutas offers alternatives to incarceration to Hispanic offenders. Provides assessment, individualized planning, case management, and assistance in finding employment and academic institution referrals.

Staff: Pro bono attorneys and volunteers assist users.

Website at <http://www.centrohispanomadison.org/>

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (CWAG)

2850 Dairy Drive, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53718-6751
Phone: (608) 224-0606
Fax: (608) 224-0607
Email: cwag@cwag.org

Legal Assistance: Simple wills, real estate transactions (not involving the sale or purchase of property), powers of attorney, guardianships

Eligibility: Dane County residents aged 60 and older. Must meet Homestead Credit household annual income guidelines.

Staff: Licensed attorneys and other staff, including benefit specialists.

Website at <http://www.cwag.org/>

Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin

1717 N Stoughton Rd.

Madison, WI 53704-2605

Phone: (608) 246-4730

Fax: (608) 246-4760

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00-12:00pm and 1:00-4:30pm

Email: cac@cacscw.org

Legal Assistance: Offers assistance to people with family, landlord/tenant, discrimination, developmental disability, and employment issues. Service divisions include *Citizen Advocacy, Family Support, Financial Services, Food Security, Community Gardens, Jefferson County, and Waukesha County.*

Eligibility: Contact for requirements.

Staff: Includes case managers and volunteer attorneys.

Website at <http://www.cacscw.org/>

Community Justice Inc.

222 S Hamilton St. Suite 22

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 204-9642: Call **Monday** through **Thursday** between **1:00 p.m.** and **4:00 p.m.** Potential clients should call during these hours and be prepared to spend 10 to 30 minutes on the phone.

Fax: (608) 204-9645

Legal Assistance: A broad range of civil legal services, including Family, Landlord/Tenant, Disability, Land Use, Mental Health, Employment, Education, Consumer/Credit, Environmental, Child Welfare, and Discrimination. Criminal representation comes through Public Defender appointments only (no referrals or walk-ins for criminal defense).

Eligibility: Incomes levels below 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline

Costs: The fees are based on a sliding scale relative to income.

Staff: Licensed attorneys

Website at: <http://www.communityjusticeinc.org/>

Community Mediation Consortium

401 Laurel Lane

Madison, WI 53704

Phone: (608) 244-9494

Contact: Ruth Westmont

Email: mediate@danenet.wictp.org

Legal Assistance: Coordinates mediation services in Dane County by referral to the proper mediation group. "Mediation" is a dispute resolution method where a neutral third person, who has no power to impose a decision if all the parties do not agree to settle the case, helps the parties reach an agreement by focusing on the key issues in a case, exchanging information between the parties and exploring options for settlement. No legal advice is given.

Staff: Groups affiliated with the Consortium are: Case Mediation Program (Dane County Bar Association), City of Madison's Equal Opportunities Commission, Housing Mediation Service (Tenant Resource Center and Madison Area Apartment Association), Neighborhood Mediation Project, UW-Madison Violence Prevention program, and Wisconsin Association of Mediators.

Costs: Depending on the program, the cost for mediation is free or only a minimal fee is charged.

Website at <http://www.danenet.org/mediate/>

Consumer Law Litigation Clinic

975 Bascom Mall
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: (608) 263-6283
Fax (608) 265-3732

Legal Assistance: Representation in federal and state consumer protection lawsuits. Assistance in filling out forms related to the case.

Eligibility: Individuals unable to afford an attorney. No set financial guidelines.

Costs: No fees are charged up front. If the client is awarded damages, attorney fees will be assessed.

Staff: Second and 3rd year UW law students under supervision of Clinical Associate Professors/Attorneys.

Website at <http://www.law.wisc.edu/fjr/eji/consumer/index.htm>

Dane County Bar Association

Bob or Le Jordan, Executive Coordinators
Dane County Bar Association
PO Box 44008
Madison, WI 53744-4008
Phone: (608) 848-1950
Fax: (608) 848-9266

Legal Assistance: Lists links to legal information, including the Wisconsin State Law Library, Wisconsin Law Journal, FindLaw, and the Wisconsin State Court System's Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP).

Website at <http://www.dcba.net/resources/>

Dane County Legal Resource Center (DCLRC)

Room L1007—215 S Hamilton Street
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 266-6316
Fax: (608) 266-5988

Email: dclrc.ref@wicourts.gov

Legal Assistance: Services include providing court-approved forms for court and legal actions, as well as informational booklets on civil court processes for a small fee. In addition, the library contains resources for people who cannot or do not want to hire an attorney. Staff will show you how to find legal information so you can find answers to your legal problems.

Eligibility: Open to all; books have limited circulation.

Costs: Forms, booklets, and photocopies are available for a small fee.

Staff: Includes a Law Librarian and a Library Associate—not attorneys—who cannot give legal advice.

More information can be found at <http://wsll.state.wi.us/branch/dclrc/>

“Divorce Court Assistance Project”—see “Family Court Assistance Project”

Disability Rights Wisconsin

131 W. Wilson Street, Suite 700
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 267-0214
TTY: 888-758-6049
Fax: (608)267-0368
Toll Free: 800-928-8778

Last updated: 2/27/09

Legal Assistance: Provides legal services to people with disabilities and disability related issues including abuse and neglect, patient rights, deinstitutionalization, long-term care, special education, voting rights, discrimination in employment and housing, barriers to accessibility, SSI managed care, Medicare Part D helpline, assistive technology, access to services.

Staff: Pro bono attorneys assist users.

Website at <http://disabilityrightswi.org>

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS)

PO Box 1761

Madison, WI 53701

24-hour Help/Crisis Line: (608) 251-4445; 1-800-747-4045

Email: info@abuseintervention.org

Legal Assistance: DAIS Legal Advocates provide support, information, advocacy, and court accompaniment to people who have experienced domestic abuse, including assistance with restraining orders and family, criminal, immigration, and other legal matters. Legal Advocates are not attorneys, and cannot give legal advice.

Eligibility: Victims of domestic violence and their children. Ask to speak with a legal advocate.

Staff: Three full time advocates and two part-time advocates.

Website at <http://www.abuseintervention.org/index.html>

Elder Law Center: See Coalition of WI Aging Groups

Fair Housing Center of Greater Madison

600 Williamson St, Suite L4

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 257-0853

Fax: (608) 257-1445

Toll-free statewide complaint intake hotline: 1-877-647-3247

Legal Assistance: Conducts intake of fair housing complaints from the general public and counsels complainants on their options for administrative or judicial remedy; Provides investigative services for persons who allege housing discrimination.

About: The Fair Housing Center of Greater Madison has been a satellite office of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council since 1998.

Website at <http://www.fairhousingwisconsin.com/serv04.htm>

Family Court Assistance Project (FCAP)

975 Bascom Mall (Meets at the Dane County Courthouse three days a week and at Villager Mall)

Madison, WI 53706

Phone: (608) 262-2301

Fax: (608) 262-5485

Hours: Change periodically: contact program volunteers for current hours.

Legal Assistance: Will help organize information, complete and review forms, and will offer numerous workshops on family court-related issues, including Temporary Restraining Orders. Staff will not provide legal advice or advocacy.

Eligibility: Open to all family court litigants, unless either party is represented by an attorney.

Staff: Law students under supervision of a clinical law professor.

Website at <http://www.law.wisc.edu/fjr/eji/familycourt/>

Family Law Assistance Center (FLAC)

Dane County Courthouse—Room L1000

215 S Hamilton Street

Madison, WI 53703

Hours: Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Legal Assistance: Dane County Bar Association Program offers assistance with forms and procedures related to family court, referrals to community resources, and no legal advice. Spanish-speaking volunteers are available the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Eligibility: Unrepresented family law litigants. No income guidelines.

Staff: Volunteer attorneys, paralegals and law students

Schedule available on Dane County Bar Association website at

<http://www.dcba.net/programs/FamilyAssistSchedule.html>

Lawyer Referral and Information Service

State Bar of Wisconsin

PO Box 7158

Madison, WI 53707

Phone: (608) 257-4666 or 1-800-362-9082 (Wisconsin only)

Legal Assistance: Callers talk to an experienced legal assistant who can assist in locating the best sources of help. Assistants generally refer callers to one or more of three services:

Lawyer Hotline: An attorney answers a caller's simple legal question.

Lawyer Referral: Caller is referred to a Wisconsin attorney who practices in the area about which the caller is inquiring.

Community Referral: Caller is referred to community sources such as low income legal services, government agencies, consumer protection, and other services.

Eligibility: All Wisconsin residents

Costs: Free service, unless the caller makes an appointment to speak with an attorney. In this case, the attorney will charge potential client no more than \$20.00 for an initial half hour consultation.

Staff: State Bar legal assistants and volunteer attorneys

Website at <http://www.wisbar.org/bar/lris>

[See also entry under “State Bar of Wisconsin”]

Legal Action of Wisconsin

31 South Mills Street

PO Box 259686

Madison, WI 53725 - 9686

Phone: (608) 256-3304 or 1-800-362-3904

Walk-in Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Fax: (608) 256-0510

Legal Assistance: Public benefits/Health law (i.e. Wisconsin works [W-2], Supplemental Security Income [SSI], Food Stamps, Medicaid); Family law (i.e. divorce, child support, custody); Senior law (i.e. Medicare, social security, elder abuse); Housing (i.e. landlord-tenant, public and subsidized housing, rent control); Education (i.e. expulsion and suspension, school lunch program denials); Migrant Project (legal services to migrant farmers); Jobs/economic law (i.e. removal of legal barriers to employment)

Eligibility: See <http://www.legalaction.org/income.htm> for income guidelines.

Staff: Attorneys and paralegals

Website at <http://www.legalaction.org/legalservices.htm>

Note: Walk in service available, but times of service vary depending on the type of assistance that is needed. Call for more information.

Legal Information Center

Student Activity Center, Office #3111

333 E. Campus Mall

Phone: (608) 263-3243

Legal Assistance: UW law students offer free legal information and research assistance on such topics as: landlord/tenant disputes, divorce, child custody, bankruptcy, consumer protection, underage drinking, driving tickets, and intellectual property rights. Students will read from relevant materials and point to sources, but will not give legal advice.

Eligibility: UW Madison Students and low-income individuals

Staff: UW law student volunteers

Note: Hours vary depending upon the availability of staff.

Website at <http://www.thelegalinformationcenter.com/>

Madison Senior Center

330 West Mifflin Street

Madison, WI

Phone (608) 266-6581

Email: seniorcenter@ci.madison.wi.us

Legal Assistance: Law related classes, including a "Do Your Own Will" class and AARP tax assistance. Call to inquiry about when classes are scheduled.

Eligibility: Dane County residents 55 and over

Further information about the senior is available on the City of Madison's website at

<http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/senior/>

Neighborhood Law Project

2300 S Park Street, Suite #3

Madison, WI 53713 (In the Villager Mall)

Phone: (608) 260-8221

Fax: (608) 442-1262

Hours: Monday 1-7 pm, Tuesday 1-4:30 pm, Wednesday 1-7 pm, Thursday 1-4:30 pm, or by appointment

Legal Assistance: Provides legal information, representation, and referrals in areas of landlord-tenant issues, workers' rights, or public benefits.

Eligibility: Call for more information.

Staff: Law students, supervised by professors who are licensed attorneys.

Website at <http://law.wisc.edu/fjr/eji/neighborhood/>

Outreach, Inc.

600 Williamson St.

Madison, WI 53703-3588

Phone: (608) 255-8582

Email: outreach@outreachinc.com

Hours: Monday through Friday 9 am to 9 pm., Saturday noon to 4 pm

Legal Assistance: Discrimination and family law issues related to LGBT families.

Staff: Includes counselors and pro bono attorneys

Website at <http://www.outreachinc.com/>

Rape Crisis Center

128 East Olin Ave. Suite 202

Madison, WI 53713

Phone: (608) 251-5126

Help-Line for Spanish Speakers/La Linea De Ayuda: 25-VALOR / 608-258-2567

Fax (608) 251 - 6229

Crisis Line/Services (608) 251-7273 (24 hours)

Email: rcc@itis.com

Legal Assistance: Assistance with and accompaniment to proceedings pertaining to the following matters: making a police report, investigative interviews, initial hearings, preliminary hearings, motions, trials, sentencing, revocation, etc. Counselor/advocates are familiar with all these proceedings and can explain what may happen to a victim. They are not legal professionals. Their role is to provide information and support to a victim and her/his support people.

Eligibility: Anyone in Dane County with an action involving sexual assault.

Staff: Counselors/advocates, including bilingual advocate (Spanish/English), who provide information and support, not legal advice.

Website at <http://www.danecountyrcc.com/>

Restorative Justice Project

Frank J. Remington Center

University of Wisconsin Law School

Madison, WI 53706-1399

Phone: (608) 263-7905

Legal Assistance: Mediation between the victims of crime and criminal offenders.

Eligibility: Any victim of a crime in which the offender is under the supervision of Wisconsin's Department of Corrections. Other victims may be deemed to be eligible.

Staff: Law students under the supervision of a Clinical Associate Professor.

Website at <http://www.law.wisc.edu/FJR/restorative>

Small Claims Assistance Program (SCAP)

Room L1000—Dane County Courthouse

215 S Hamilton Street

Madison, WI 53703

Hours: Tuesdays 9-11 a.m.—walk in service only, no phone calls

Legal Assistance: Dane County Bar Association Program offers: assistance with forms and procedures related to small claims court; referrals to community resources; no legal advice

Eligibility: Unrepresented small claims court litigants. No income guidelines.

Staff: Volunteer attorneys, paralegals and law students

State Bar of Wisconsin

Email: service@wisbar.org

Legal Assistance: "Legal Resources" (<http://www.wisbar.org/legalres>) - this section of the site contains links to a variety of sources, including Wisconsin legislation, case law, administrative decisions, local and federal court rules and circuit court forms.

"Legal Explorer" (<http://www.legalexplorer.com/main.asp>) -site created by the state bar provides a starting point for resolving a legal issue. Some of the highlights include options that allow patrons to contact a legal assistant or registered lawyers, find answers to frequently asked questions about the law

Website at <http://www.wisbar.org/>

[See also entry under "Lawyer Referral & Information Service"]

State Public Defender

17 S. Fairchild St. – 2d floor

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 266-9150

Fax: (608) 267-1777

Legal Assistance: Legal services for indigent defendants in Dane County criminal account, juveniles in Dane County, and clients involved in mental commitment proceedings.

Eligibility: Eligibility determination considers the applicant's income and assets (including spousal income and assets), family size, essential expenses beyond ordinary living expenses, and the type of case for which the applicant seeks representation. Call for more information.

Staff: Licensed attorneys

Website at <http://www.wisspd.org/>

Tenant Resource Center

1202 Williamson Street, Suite A
Madison, WI 53703

Housing Counseling in Dane County: (608) 257-0006

Toll-Free Housing Counseling outside Dane County: No longer available due to cut funding

Housing Counseling via Email: asktrc@tenantresourcecenter.org

Housing Help Desk at the Dane County Job Center: (608) 242-7406

Mediation Service: (608) 257-2799

Business Line: (608) 257-0143

Fax: (608) 257-0143

Hours: Reduced due to cut funding: call to inquire about current operating hours.

Legal Assistance: Cannot give legal information; however an Attorney Referral List is available. Housing counseling/information/referrals for Wisconsin landlords' and tenants' rights and responsibilities provided.

Eligibility: Tenants, landlords, anyone with questions about rental rights throughout Wisconsin.

Staff/Volunteers: TRC-trained housing counselors.

Website: <http://www.tenantresourcecenter.org>

Unemployment Compensation Appeals Clinic

1602 S. Park St., #106

Madison, WI 53715

Phone:(608) 246-4357

Email: uwuac@rso.wisc.edu

Hours: Vary throughout the year. The only way to schedule an appointment with the clinic is through the United Way (dial 2-1-1 from any local phone or the above listed number)

Legal Assistance: Help with the pursuit of unemployment compensation benefits. Under the supervision of volunteer attorneys, law students advise clients and prepare for and represent them at unemployment compensation hearings in Dane County. The Clinic only assists with claims involving Wisconsin Unemployment Law.

Eligibility: Individuals who believe they have an unemployment compensation claim.

Staff: Law students under the supervision of volunteer attorneys. Attorneys assist law students with case selection decisions and are available for consultation.

Website at <http://uclinic.rso.wisc.edu/>

United Refugee Services of Wisconsin, Inc. (URSW)

312 N. 3d St.

Madison, WI 53704

Phone: (608) 256-6400

Contact: ThajYing Lee, Executive Director

Email: thajyinglee@tds.net

Legal Assistance: Helps refugees with legal needs.

Eligibility: Services are mainly for Asians, refugees, asylees, and their descendents, living primarily in Dane and Rock Counties.

Staff: Bilingual and bi-cultural staff who provide support services and information to individuals and families as they adjust to their new life in Wisconsin.

Website at <http://www.ursw.org/>

Upper Midwest Pension Rights Project

2850 Dairy Drive, Suite 100

Madison, WI 53718

Phone: (608) 224-0606

TTY/Textnet: (888) 758-6047

Fax: (608) 224-0607

Email: pensionrights@cwag.org

Legal Assistance: Assists Wisconsin residents with pension issues including defined benefit, 401(k) and stock ownership plans.

Eligibility: UMPRP's services are available regardless of age or income. See also: Elder Law Center, which serves Wisconsin residents and individuals who received retirement benefits through employment in Wisconsin.

Staff: One attorney, supported by the national office in DC and other offices around the country. The program also has 1-3 UW Law students at various times.

Website at <http://www.cwag.org/legal/pension%2Drights/>

[See also entry under “Elder Law Center, Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (CWAG)”]

Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families

PO Box 1742

Madison, WI 53701-1742

Phone: (608) ALL-DADS (255-3237)

Email: info101@wisconsinfathers.org

Legal Assistance: Advocacy, counseling, information and support services for parents who have difficulties as a consequence of divorce or paternity actions. Focus on access of the child to both parents. Referrals to lawyers and other professionals are available.

Eligibility: Open to all.

Website at <http://www.wisconsinfathers.org/>

Wisconsin State Law Library

Contains a vast amount of legal information on the local, state, and federal levels. Provides links to forms, legal topics, and reference sources as well.

Email: wsl.ref@wicourts.gov

Phone:

Circulation: (608) 266-1600

Reference: (608) 267-9696

Toll-Free: 800-322-9755

Website at <http://www.wsl.state.wi.us/>