



PENNSYLVANIANS
FOR MODERN COURTS

Resources for Self-Represented Litigants

Many local courts have information centers and also publish guides for self-represented litigants. These centers, and websites with electronic access to such documents, are useful resources for litigants.

For example, the First Judicial District in Philadelphia has a [Brochures and Manuals](#) section on its website with downloadable guides and brochures. Similarly, the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas has a [section on its website](#) where brochures and guides for various courts and proceedings such as family court, drug court, and juvenile proceedings may be downloaded, and Lancaster County provides a [Self Help Center](#) for pro se litigants.

Local Bar Associations

Many county bar associations have lawyer referral programs which try to link lawyers to people who need assistance. For example, the [Philadelphia Bar Association](#) and the [Allegheny County Bar Association](#) both have lawyer referral programs. Check to see if your county bar association has such a program.

Other Resources for Self-Represented Litigants

[Jenkins Law Library](#) in Philadelphia provides packets of forms for self-represented litigants. A list is available here.

[Directory of Public Interest Legal Organizations from the Philadelphia Bar Association](#): A list of over 30 public interest law agencies that serve Philadelphia's neediest citizens

[Consumers' Guide to Legal Help: Helping Yourself from the American Bar Association](#): Guide that answers some questions about self-representation.

[PA Law Help](#): A wealth of information in the following categories: Consumer, Children and Families, Disabilities, Education, Elder Law, Employment, Health Law, Housing and Shelter, Immigrant Issues, Migrant Issues, Public Benefits, Veterans and Military

[Family Law Consumer Education Materials from the Philadelphia Bar Association](#): Information Sheets on Child Custody, Child Support, Divorce, Domestic Violence and Welfare Support, Paternity of Children When Parents are not Married, Protection from Abuse, Custody Forms and Instructions

[Women's Law Project](#): Brochures about Divorce and Custody Proceedings; Child Support Petitions; Protection from Abuse Proceedings; Pregnancy; Rape; Insurance Discrimination Against Victims of Domestic Violence; Medical Assistance; and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Rights

[Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#): A variety of resources for victims of domestic violence.

[Lancaster County Self-Help Center](#): This center provides information and forms litigants need to represent themselves in certain types of actions, including child custody and divorce proceedings. It does not provide personal assistance in filling out or filing any forms.

[Philadelphia VIP](#): The Legal Resources section lists a variety of resources in the Philadelphia area for the self-represented litigant.