

# Legal Resources Reference Guide for West Virginia

*Free self-help legal organizations and resources available to patrons of local public libraries in search of legal help or information*

## **Free Legal Help:**

- **Legal Aid of West Virginia** – 1-866-255-4370, <http://www.lawv.net>

Provides free legal assistance to low-income people, victims of domestic violence, veterans, and other vulnerable people with civil legal issues. People can apply online or by phone.

- **Mountain State Justice** – 1-800-319-7132, <http://mountainstatejustice.org/>

Provides free legal assistance to low-income consumers who are facing home foreclosure, were lied to in the process of obtaining a loan, purchased a defective home or car; or have received unfair charges on loans or credit accounts. Also, people can contact Mountain State Justice to apply for free legal assistance if they are a prisoner or know a prisoner that is being unfairly or unsafely treated in a jail or correctional facility.

- **West Virginia Senior Legal Aid** – 1-800-229-5068, <http://www.seniorlegalaid.net/>

Provides free civil legal advice for senior West Virginians age 60 and over. The person age 60 or over who needs legal help must be the one who calls WVSLA, not someone else calling on his or her behalf.

- **Clinical Law – WVU College of Law** – 1-304-293-7249, <http://www.law.wvu.edu/clinical-law>

Provides free legal services to low-income persons, generally in north central WV, in a number of areas including family law, property issues, consumer debt relief, bankruptcy, immigration, social security, veterans' benefits, and other public benefits.

- **Disability Rights WV** – 1-800-950-5250, <https://www.drofww.org/>

Provides direct advocacy and legal assistance to persons with disabilities including persons with mental health, developmental, intellectual, and physical disabilities, as well as traumatic brain injury. Will provide information and referral services to anyone who requests assistance.

## **Legal Advice Website:**

- **West Virginia Online Legal Help** – <http://www.wvonlinelegalhelp.org/>

West Virginia Online Legal Help is a website where low-income persons can post legal questions and receive free brief advice from a volunteer attorney. To sign up, go to the website, answer the eligibility questions, create an account, and submit the legal question you need answered. WV Online Legal Help is a program of the West Virginia State Bar. Legal Aid helps to administer the website.

## **Referrals to Lawyers:**

- **Lawyer Referral Service** – <http://www.wvlawyerreferral.org/>

The Lawyer Referral Service assists people in finding lawyers that are currently taking referrals in specific practice areas. Lawyers in West Virginia are not certified by the West Virginia State Bar in any specific areas of law, but they may have experience or interest in that specific area of practice. On this website, people search for an attorney in the area who, by signing up for this service, has agreed to see them as a client for an initial consultation for a fee of no more than \$25 for the first 30 minutes of the consultation.

## **Legal Information By Phone:**

- **Law Line – Legal Aid of West Virginia** – 1-866-985-2948

Listen to recorded phone messages with information on common legal problems like divorce, custody, domestic violence, housing, DHHR benefits, and how to represent yourself in court. Each message is 2-3 minutes. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- **Tuesday Legal Connect** – 1-800-642-3617

On Tuesday Evenings from 6-8 pm, volunteer attorneys for the West Virginia State Bar answer phone calls to provide legal information and referrals. This information and the call are free.

## **Legal Information Websites:**

- **Legal Aid of West Virginia Self-Help Online Library** - <http://www.lawv.net/Resources>

Legal Aid's Self-Help Library has legal information, videos, and forms for many common legal problems including: family law, landlord-tenant, DHHR benefits, and how to represent yourself in court.

- **Forms, Opinions, & Law Library – West Virginia Judiciary** – <http://www.courtswv.gov/>

The website for the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals has forms available for persons to use and file on their own. The website also features an online database of the official State Law Library. Although the primary focus of this library is maintaining records of West Virginia statutes and cases, the website provides a list of resource information available to the public, including contact information for reference librarian.

**The West Virginia Code** – <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/WVCODE/Code.cfm>

The West Virginia Code website features the official law of our state, including recent changes.

**Law Library, WVU College of Law** – <http://www.law.wvu.edu/library>

The Law Library provides legal resource information for the public, including links to legal databases. Many of these databases require a subscription. However, the website includes contact information for the reference librarians who could be helpful if you need assistance in finding a legal resource.

**American Association of Law Libraries** – <https://www.aallnet.org/sections/lisp/West-Virginia-2015.pdf>

This guide is intended to assist non-legal professionals in finding West Virginia legal resources.