

## Written Resources (documents and fact sheets)

More written resources and fact sheets about family law and other legal topics are available to the public for free at [www.LawHelpMN.org](http://www.LawHelpMN.org).

Other places to look for legal information or more written resources with family law matters are the local county law library, court administrator's office, or self help center (see below). Each county has a local law library, and some law libraries have paid staff that can assist you in finding the legal information you need. If you would like to speak to a law librarian call (651) 296-2775 during business hours to reach someone at the Minnesota State Law Library or email: [askmarvin@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:askmarvin@courts.state.mn.us).

### CHILD SUPPORT INFORMATION (see also [www.LawHelpMN.org](http://www.LawHelpMN.org)):

- **"Being a Legal Father"** and **"Understanding Child Support"** are very helpful. They are available in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong for free from the website for the State Child Support Office: [www.dhs.state.mn.us](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us), click on "Child Support" on Quick Links (right side of page). The state child support general information line is (651) 296-2542.
- **"Child Support Basics,"** a booklet published by the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition, is available for a small fee by calling the Coalition office at (651) 228-9105, x 651, or for a free copy from the internet, go to [www.mnlegalservices.org](http://www.mnlegalservices.org), click on "Booklets."
- **"Questions and Answers for Noncustodial Parents,"** about paternity establishment and child support in Minnesota, a guide published by the Center for Fathers, Families and Public Policy, is available for free on their website at [www.cffpp.org](http://www.cffpp.org). (There is also a guide for custodial parents published by this organization.)
- **"What you Need to Know about Child Support: Modification of Child Support Orders because of Unemployment or Enrollment in School,"** a two-page fact sheet, is available from Central Minnesota Legal Services by calling (612) 332-8151 or is available free from the website at [www.centralmnlegal.org](http://www.centralmnlegal.org), click on "Library."
- **"What you Need to Know about Child Support: Driver's License Suspensions,"** a two-page fact sheet, is available from Central Minnesota Legal Services by calling (612) 332-8151 or is available free from the website at [www.centralmnlegal.org](http://www.centralmnlegal.org), click on "Library."



### CUSTODY AND PARENTING TIME INFORMATION (see also [www.LawHelpMN.org](http://www.LawHelpMN.org)):

- **"A Parental Guide to Making Child-Focused Parenting Time Decisions,"** a general guide for state court judges in deciding what type of parenting schedule to give the noncustodial parent, is available from the Minnesota State Court Administrator's Office at (651) 297-7587, or for free at [http://www.mncourts.gov/documents/0/Public/Court\\_Information\\_Office/PARENTING\\_TIME\\_PAMPHLET.doc](http://www.mncourts.gov/documents/0/Public/Court_Information_Office/PARENTING_TIME_PAMPHLET.doc).
- **"Answers to Commonly Asked Questions about Supervised Parenting Time and Other "Visitation" Services: Responses from Teri Walker McLaughlin and Melissa Froehle,"** a four-page fact sheet from the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network, November 2006, at <http://www.mnfathers.org/documents/SupervisedParentingTime.pdf>.

## PARENTING PLANS (see page 23 of this guide)

- “We Agree: Creating a Parenting Plan,” from the University of Minnesota Extension Service, [www.parenting.umn.edu](http://www.parenting.umn.edu), for an example of a parenting plan that can be used and resources on how to develop a plan. The parenting agreement worksheet is free; there is a small fee for the booklet which provides the guidance to fill out the form. For more information, contact Rose Allen at [allen027@umn.edu](mailto:allen027@umn.edu).

## RECOGNITION OF PARENTAGE DOCUMENTS

Many child support related forms can be found on the website for the State Child Support Office, [www.dhs.state.mn.us](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us), click on “Child Support on Quick Links” (right side of page), then click on “Publications,” then click on “Forms.”

- The form to sign a new Recognition of Parentage is found directly at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Legacy/DHS-3159-ENG>. This is in English; it is also available in Hmong, Somali and Spanish. You can also contact your county child support office to sign a Recognition of Parentage. It is highly recommended that you do not complete this form on your own without help from the child support office or an attorney. You want to make sure it is completed right (no mistakes on the form, mailed to the right agency) and that you fully understand what rights you are giving up in signing the form. An example of the Recognition of Parentage form is found beginning on page 40.
- The form to revoke a Recognition of Parentage (must be within 60 days of signing the original) is found directly at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Legacy/DHS-3159-ENG>. This is in English; it is also available in Hmong, Somali and Spanish.
- The form to get a certified copy of a Recognition of Parentage or Declaration of Parentage that has already been signed and filed with the Minnesota Department of Health, Office of the State Registrar is found directly at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/osr/ropform/pdf>. This form is also found on page 44.



## MINNESOTA FATHERS' ADOPTION REGISTRY DOCUMENTS

More information about the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry can be found on the Minnesota Department of Health's website, [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us), click on “Certificates and Records,” and then click on “Fathers' Adoption Registry” (bottom, left hand side of page).

- The registration documents for the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry are found directly at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/registry/regfrm.htm>.

## Pro Se Court Forms (to file a court action without a lawyer)

The Minnesota State Court Administrator's Office has made many court forms for people to use who are "pro se," meaning not represented by a lawyer. These forms have been referenced in this Guide, for example, on the chart on page 13. These forms are available for family law and child support cases as well as other types of cases. Some counties have additional forms besides those on the Minnesota state court website. Some counties have their own version of the court forms that they would rather you use. Check with the county in which you plan to file your court action if you have questions about the appropriate form to use.

The pro se court forms are available:

- On the internet at the Minnesota State Court website at [www.mncourts.gov](http://www.mncourts.gov). Click on "Forms." Make sure to download and print the instructions for each form and remember that a filing fee is required for a court action (or a waiver of the filing fee, called an In Forma Pauperis or "IFP"). Most of the motions mentioned in this guide are under "Child Custody and Parenting Time" or "Child Support." If you are unsure of which form to use, you can email the Self Help Center. Go to [www.mncourts.gov](http://www.mncourts.gov), click on "Self Help Center" in the upper right corner, then click on "Contact Us @ SHC" on the left side of the Self Help Center page.
- At your local county law library or county court administrator's office.
- At your county's Family Law Self Help Center (if one exists, see below for locations).



## Self Help Centers and Free Legal Clinics

Some counties in Minnesota provide "self help" resources to help people who don't have lawyers get their family law problems heard in court. These services usually consist of providing forms and assistance. Some programs are able to provide legal advice also, usually by working with volunteer attorneys. The services in each county may vary. Below is information for Hennepin and Ramsey counties only. To find resources near you, go to the Minnesota State Court website at [www.mncourts.gov](http://www.mncourts.gov) and click on "Self-Help Center" (upper right part of page). This page has the most up to date information statewide.

### SELF HELP CENTERS

**Hennepin County Family Court Self-Help Center** - (612) 596-8519  
110 South Fourth Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (Family Justice Center)  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
Open 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

**Ramsey County Family Court Self-Help Service Center** - (651) 266-2842  
15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Room 126 (Ramsey County Courthouse)  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
Open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

## LEGAL CLINICS

Legal clinics for fathers with family law issues vary by city and county. Below are some that operate in the Twin Cities Metro Area. Also see the website for the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network under Programs Serving Fathers in Minnesota (below).

### **Resource Center for Fathers & Families**

Family Law Clinics are hosted by a facilitator and conducted by a family law attorney who advises fathers about their concerns regarding divorce, paternity, custody, child support and related issues. Offered at various locations. Call for schedule and to register: (763) 783-4938.

### **FathersFirst! Family Law Clinics (with co-sponsors, see below)**

Call Steve Onell with FathersFIRST! for more information (612) 384-7078. Call to verify dates and times as they are subject to change.

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., My Home Inc., 1010 University Avenue Suite 1, St. Paul, MN 55104; (651) 659-0359, individual consultation available, \$10 donation.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Emerge Community Development, 1101 West Broadway Avenue North, Minneapolis (612) 529-9267; individual consultation available, \$10 donation.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., PPL Learning Center, 1925 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404; (612) 455-5300; individual consultation available, \$10 donation.
- Quarterly family law clinics, (January, April, July and October), co-sponsored with Dakota County Child Support at the Dakota County Child Support Information Sessions. Call (651) 554-5852 for the next date and more information.

## Free or Low Cost Attorneys

There are limited resources for free or low cost legal assistance with family law matters such as custody and parenting time. Legal services programs give some family law legal help to people who meet the requirements. The contact information for each county's legal services or "legal aid" program is listed on the internet at [www.LawHelpMN.org](http://www.LawHelpMN.org) and in the phone book. If these programs cannot help you, they may know of other legal resources in your area, including attorneys who may provide pro bono (free) legal help. Below are the legal aid intake numbers for the largest counties in Minnesota.



### **LEGAL AID INTAKE PHONE NUMBERS:**

Anoka County (763) 783-4970 or (612) 334-5970  
Carver County (952) 440-1040  
Dakota County (952) 431-3200 (family law) or (952) 440-1040  
Hennepin County (612) 334-5970  
Olmsted County (507) 287-2036  
Ramsey County (651) 222-4731  
Scott County (952) 440-1040  
St. Louis County (North) (800) 886-3270; (South) (800) 622-7266  
Stearns County (800) 622-7773 or (888) 360-2889  
Washington County (651) 351-7172 or (651) 222-4731

## Selected Programs for Fathers in the Twin Cities Metro Area

Center for Fathering, Urban Ventures Leadership Foundation  
3041 Fourth Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
(612) 822-0802 / [www.urbanventures.org](http://www.urbanventures.org)

Council on Crime and Justice  
822 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
(612) 596-7622 / [www.crimeandjustice.org](http://www.crimeandjustice.org)

Employment Action Center, RESOURCE, Inc., Young Dads Program  
900 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404 (also St. Paul location)  
(612) 752-8836 / [www.eac-mn.org](http://www.eac-mn.org)

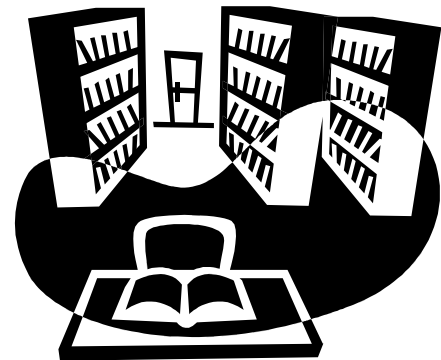
Fathers FIRST!  
(612) 384-7078

The FATHER Project, a program of Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota  
1600 East Lake Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 724-3539 / [mnges.easterseals.com](http://mnges.easterseals.com)

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) Young Fathers Program  
East Metro  
(651) 225-8084 / [www.ppl-inc.org](http://www.ppl-inc.org)

Resource Center for Fathers and Families  
Multiple locations  
(763) 783-4938 / [www.resourcesforfathers.org](http://www.resourcesforfathers.org)

The Men's Line (612) 379-MENS or (612) 379-6367  
(24 hour – free confidential phone service)



## Programs Serving Fathers in Minnesota

For information on other programs serving fathers in Minnesota, visit the Minnesota Fathers & Families Network website at [www.mnfathers.org](http://www.mnfathers.org), click on the link, “Services for Fathers.” This organization and website has the most accurate and complete listing of resources for fathers in Minnesota.