

**DIVORCE LAW IN IOWA  
WITH NO CHILDREN  
AND NO LAWYER**

*A GUIDE TO USING  
THE COURT FORMS FOR  
DIVORCE WITHOUT  
CHILDREN*

**IOWA LEGAL AID**  
**[iowalegalaid.org](http://iowalegalaid.org)**

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE: READ THIS INFORMATION BEFORE USING ANY PART OF THIS PUBLICATION**

**This booklet is a general summary of the law. It is not meant to completely explain the subjects in this booklet. IT IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR LEGAL ADVICE.**

**The information in this booklet was correct as of the date it was printed (see the back cover). The laws may have changed. DO NOT ASSUME THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS BOOKLET IS NOW CORRECT.**

**You should see a lawyer to get complete, correct, and up-to-date legal advice. Do not rely on the general information in this booklet for your specific case.**

**If you need a lawyer but can't afford one, contact Iowa Legal Aid. You may be able to get free legal help. Call or write Iowa Legal Aid. The address and phone numbers are on the back cover.**

**AS YOU READ THIS BOOKLET, REMEMBER IT IS NOT  
A SUBSTITUTE FOR LEGAL ADVICE**

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
General Information: .....	3
What if there is a child but the husband is not the father? .....	3
Do I Need to Have a Lawyer? .....	3
How Much Does it Cost to Get a Divorce? .....	3
What If I Can't Afford a Lawyer?.....	4
What is the Difference Between "Divorce" and "Annulment?" .....	4
What is the Difference Between a Divorce and a Legal Separation? .....	4
What If I'm Not Sure I'm Married? .....	4
The Divorce (Dissolution of Marriage) Process: .....	5
Can Anyone File for Divorce in Iowa?.....	5
What If You Don't Know Where Your Spouse Is? .....	6
How Long Does it Take to Get a Divorce? .....	6
What Is the Petition and What Information Does it Contain?.....	7
What are Temporary Orders? .....	7
What if There is Domestic Abuse?.....	7
What Should I Do if I Was Served Divorce Papers?.....	8
What Happens after the Answer Is Filed? .....	8
What If One Spouse Wants Marriage Counseling? .....	8
Working Out a Stipulation.....	8
What is Mediation? .....	8
What Financial Information Will the Court Want? .....	9
Final Decree.....	9
How Will the Court Divide the Marital Property?.....	9
Will the Court Order Spousal Support (Alimony)?.....	10
What Is a "COLA?" .....	10
After the Divorce:	
What If a Party Ignores an Order or the Final Decree? .....	10
Can We Change the Final Decree Later? .....	10
Where to Find Help:	
Iowa Legal Aid Offices and Additional Information .....	11

# Introduction

Sometimes a marriage no longer works. One or both spouses think about a divorce. A divorce takes time and you must plan and make decisions. This booklet may help people thinking about divorce prepare for the dissolution of their marriage. If you are divorced and hope to change a term in your original decree, the part on “After the Divorce,” page 10, may be useful.

Iowa is a “no-fault” state. This means you do not have to prove one spouse was at fault in the breakdown of the marriage. Courts will grant a divorce where one or both parties say there has been a breakdown of the marriage relationship with no reasonable hope of making it work.

This booklet explains the process of divorce. It is a summary of what the court looks at in making final decisions about alimony and property.

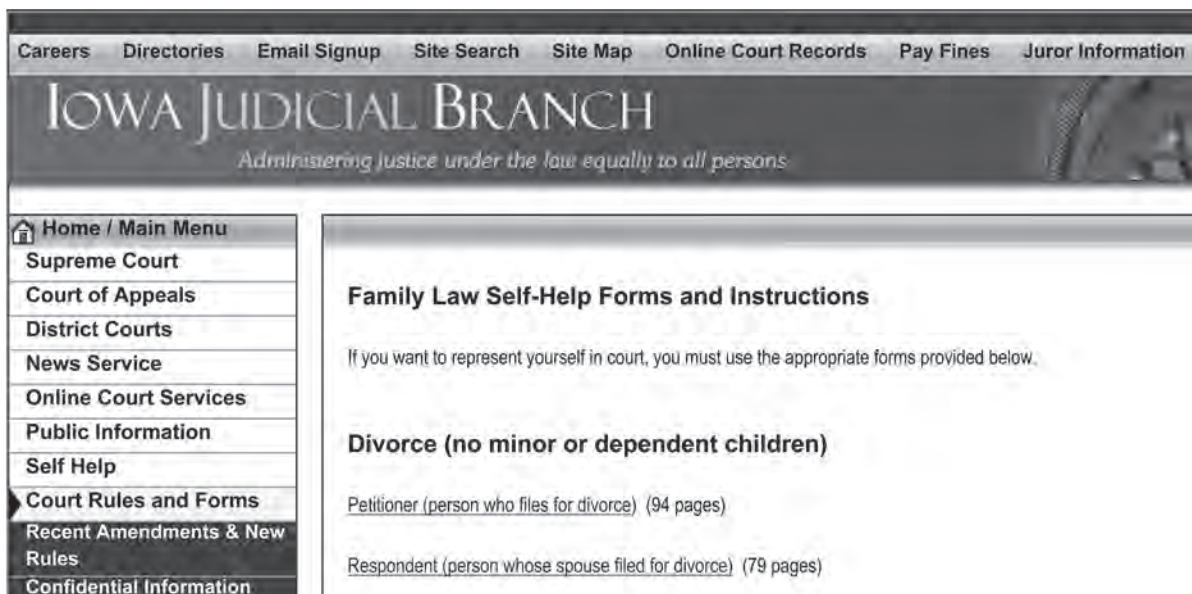
The Iowa Supreme Court provides the forms to use to get a divorce. The forms can be used by both parties in the divorce. These forms can only be used if there are no minor children. Some people must use these forms. You *must* use the court forms if:

- you are getting a divorce
- you do not have minor children
- you do not have children age 18 years or older who still need your support
- you have not hired an attorney to help you with the divorce.

There is a set of forms for the “petitioner,” the person who starts the divorce with a petition. There is a different set of forms for the “respondent,” the person who receives the petition. You can buy the forms at the office of the Clerk of Court in your county. The cost is \$10. You can also get them for free online at:

**[www.judicial.state.ia.us/Self\\_Help/Family\\_Law/Divorce/](http://www.judicial.state.ia.us/Self_Help/Family_Law/Divorce/)**

A guide explains the process and defines common legal terms. The forms mentioned in this booklet are in the packets available from the court. If you represent yourself, you must use the court forms.



The screenshot shows the Iowa Judicial Branch website. The top navigation bar includes links for Careers, Directories, Email Signup, Site Search, Site Map, Online Court Records, Pay Fines, and Juror Information. The main header reads "IOWA JUDICIAL BRANCH" with the tagline "Administering justice under the law equally to all persons". A left-hand menu lists various court services, with "Court Rules and Forms" selected. The main content area is titled "Family Law Self-Help Forms and Instructions" and contains the following text:

If you want to represent yourself in court, you must use the appropriate forms provided below.

**Divorce (no minor or dependent children)**

[Petitioner \(person who files for divorce\) \(94 pages\)](#)

[Respondent \(person whose spouse filed for divorce\) \(79 pages\)](#)

The page shown above with links to the forms is [http://www.judicial.state.ia.us/Court\\_Rules\\_and\\_Forms/Family\\_Law\\_Forms/index.asp](http://www.judicial.state.ia.us/Court_Rules_and_Forms/Family_Law_Forms/index.asp)

# General Information

## What if there is a child but the husband is not the father?

If a child was born during the marriage, or the wife is pregnant, but the husband is not the father you cannot use the forms. In Iowa a child born to the wife during the marriage is by law the child of the husband. This is also true if the wife is pregnant. If you are in this situation, you cannot use the court forms for divorce with out children. You can “disestablish” the husband as the father of the child. You can do this in a divorce, but there are no court forms for that now. You will probably need a lawyer to help you.

## Do I Need to Have a Lawyer?

It is best to have a lawyer. There are times when parties are able to work out a settlement on their own. No law says people must have a lawyer in order to get a divorce. However, in these cases you should talk to a lawyer:

- When there are children from this marriage; or
- When either of you own real estate; or
- When you don't agree about how to divide what you own; or
- When one party thinks he or she may be entitled to support from the other party; or
- When there is any dispute.

If you handle the case yourself, get the forms that are available from the Iowa Supreme Court. These forms have step by step instructions.

## How Much Does it Cost to Get a Divorce?

You must pay a fee of \$100.00 to the Clerk of Court when the divorce Petition is filed. There are also service fees to the Sheriff if service must be made by the Sheriff. Service fees are usually \$20 to \$30. If you are unable to pay the fees, you can ask the court to defer payment of the costs. See Form FL-109. You must provide specific details about your income and expenses. A petitioner who asks to defer payment can file without paying a fee. The fee will still be charged to a party at the end of the divorce. Also, a \$50 fee must be paid when the final decree is filed.

Many lawyers require “retainers” or money up front to start a divorce action. Fees vary from city to city and from law firm to law firm. Lawyers often want at least a \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 retainer. Discuss fees and payment options with your lawyer. Be sure you know how much your lawyer charges per hour. If he or she charges a flat rate, find out what it will be. Ask if that flat rate goes up if the case gets more difficult than it seemed at first.

A contested divorce is when the parties cannot agree on the issues. Most of the time this costs more than an uncontested one. The reason is because a trial is often involved. Courts may require the party in the best financial position to pay part or all of the legal fees. This may include some of the other side's fees.

## **What If I Can't Afford a Lawyer?**

Many people worry about the cost in deciding whether or not to have a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, your rights may not be addressed in your divorce petition and decree. This may end up costing more in the long run. It can happen since you must pay later to try to get changes in the initial decree. Courts are reluctant to make any changes later unless there has been a major change of circumstances. Property decisions cannot be changed later by the Court in any event. Consider, too, the negative feelings you will have if you feel that your rights were not considered in the initial petition and decree.

In some parts of the state, special programs help reduce the expenses involved, such as attorneys fees. Talk to the Clerk of Court in the county the divorce is filed to find out if there is such a program in your area.

The Court may order your spouse to pay attorney's fees. This will not occur until after a hearing on temporary support and fees or the decree is final. In the meantime, most lawyers will want payment in order to start the divorce.

Talk to your lawyer to see if you can pay in installments.

If you are a victim of domestic abuse and are low-income, Iowa Legal Aid may be able to help. Call the toll-free number on the back of this booklet or go to [iowalegalaid.org](http://iowalegalaid.org) on the Web to find out which office serves your county.

## **What is the Difference Between "Divorce" and "Annulment?"**

"Divorce" ends a valid marriage. "Annulment" means the marriage was never valid and should never have happened. The reasons to annul a marriage are very limited. They include marriages prohibited by law and where either person was already married to someone else.

## **What is the Difference Between a Divorce and a Legal Separation?**

They are very similar. The main difference is the couple stays married. They simply ask the court to decide how to handle things like support, property, and debts while they are separated. This is because they plan to be separated a long time. Legal separations are quite rare. The person whose spouse files for a legal separation can ask the court to grant a divorce instead. In both actions, the court looks at the topics this booklet covers.

## **What If I'm Not Sure I'm Married?**

Common law marriage is generally an informal marriage. There is no ceremony. It is an agreement between a man and woman who are legally capable of marrying. You must be able to show that:

1. Both parties intended to be married and agreed to it;
2. There must be some degree of living together, though no set length of time is required. The simple act of living together, without more, is not enough to establish a common-law marriage;

3. There must be public declaration or “holding out” as husband and wife. While there is no formula to determine if the parties have been “holding out” as husband and wife, the following activities have been convincing:
- introducing one another as “Mr. and Mrs.”
  - exchanging wedding rings
  - mail arrives and is sent as “Mr. and Mrs.”
  - going to social events as a married couple
  - naming as spouse in an insurance policy
  - joint checking account
  - introduction as spouse
  - marital status on employment application

A party cannot be married to more than one person at a time. A married person who knowingly marries before dissolving the first marriage could be guilty of bigamy. The innocent “spouse” in such a case can seek to have the marriage annulled.

If you are not sure if you are married, it is safest to ask the court to decide. You can ask in a divorce or just ask the court to declare the rights of the parties, whether you are married at common law or not. Remember that while you can be married at common law, there is no common law divorce. If there is a common law marriage, you must get a formal divorce from the court before you can marry again, either by common law or by formal, licensed means.

You can find out more on common law marriage from Iowa Legal Aid or on the website [iowalegalaid.org](http://iowalegalaid.org).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Iowa is one of only about 13 states recognizing common law marriage. In most states, the couple has to sign a marriage certificate or they are not married, no matter whether all the above elements are met or not.

## **The Divorce Process:**

### **Can Anyone File for Divorce in Iowa?**

You must meet certain requirements before bringing a divorce action in Iowa. Some concern the parties’ residency. Iowa law states:

1. the person filing a petition for divorce (Petitioner) must live in Iowa for at least one year before bringing a divorce action, unless
2. the person’s spouse (Respondent) is a resident of Iowa and is personally served (notified in person).

The petition must contain a statement showing that Petitioner’s residence in Iowa has been in good faith and not just to get a divorce. The court form petition, FL-101, includes all of this information.

## What If You Don't Know Where Your Spouse Is?

You can still file for divorce, but the spouse must be served by publication. In such a case, the court is limited in what it can do. For example, you can be divorced but you may not be able to get money from your spouse. The court forms have information about serving by publication. Look at FL-107 and FL-108 and instructions.

## How Long Does it Take to Get a Divorce?

<b>Action Is Filed</b> ⇨	<b>20 Days To Respond</b> ⇨	<b>90-day Waiting Period</b> ⇨	<b>Final Decree</b>
The spouse bringing the divorce action gets the papers ready to start the divorce. The spouse files papers with the court.	The other spouse is notified and has 20 days to answer	A 90-day waiting period begins. (If the court orders marriage counseling, the waiting period will not start until counseling is done).	

A spouse who brings a divorce action will have to fill out the petition and other papers or hire a lawyer to do this. If the person is handling the divorce without a lawyer, then the person should look at forms FL-101, FL-102, FL-103 and instructions to those forms. The spouse files the papers that start the divorce with the Clerk of Court. These papers include the Petition, FL-101, the Coversheet, FL-102, and the Confidential Information Form, FL-103.

The other party must be “served” with the papers. There is information about serving a spouse in the instructions to FL-104, FL-105, and FL-106. Once a spouse is served, a spouse has 20 days to respond or answer the petition. A spouse can use form FL-115 or FL-116 to answer a petition.

Once the other spouse has been served, a ninety-day waiting period begins. During the waiting period, some parties get counseling or work out the terms of their divorce. No decree can be entered until this 90-day period is over. In certain situations, the court can shorten the 90-day waiting period. To ask to shorten the waiting period, use FL-122.

If the court orders conciliation (marriage counseling), the 90-day period will not start until the conciliation is done. Couples are usually ordered to take part in the counseling for 60 days.

The parties usually have to file a Financial Affidavit, FL-124 unless the judge agrees that it is not needed.. If the parties can work out the terms of their agreement, a hearing date is scheduled. The parties can use FL-128, if they can work out an agreement. Most hearings can be scheduled soon after the ninety-day waiting period has ended. It may take more than ninety days to work out the agreement.

If the parties are unable to work out an agreement, their divorce is contested. This means a trial must be scheduled. If the case is contested, the parties will probably need to file a Request for Relief, FL-127. The Request for Relief tells the court what you want the court to give you in the divorce. Depending on the number of issues and how difficult they are, a trial date may be months away. Once a judge hears the case, it may be weeks or even months before getting a final decision and decree.

In certain cases, it is possible to get the divorce without a court hearing. Among other requirements, all the necessary documents must be on file. The parties must also have entered into a written agreement settling all the issues involved.

## **What Is the Petition and What Information Does it Contain?**

In a divorce action, the petition is a formal, written request to the Court. It asks the Court to dissolve the marriage.

The petition must say that the marriage is broken and can not be saved. In addition, the petition should have:

- Names of the parties. If a spouse decides to use her maiden name or any other last name once the divorce is final, the petition can say so.
- Unless the Respondent is a resident of the state and is to be personally served, the petition must state that the Petitioner has been a resident of Iowa for the last year. The petition must state the county in which the Petitioner has lived. It must say the Petitioner has lived in Iowa not just to get a divorce.
- What the Petitioner wants the court to do. For example, end the marriage, divide the debts, or order alimony.

All of this information is included in the court form Petition, FL-101.

## **What are Temporary Orders?**

Certain issues may need to be dealt with between the time a Petition is filed and the Divorce is granted. For example, one spouse may have concerns about finances. If so, a spouse may request temporary orders from the court for attorneys fees or alimony. The right to sole occupancy of the family home can be ordered, but only if there has been domestic violence. Before the Court will rule on temporary matters, the need to have a hearing is likely. Such hearings are not automatically scheduled. A form Motion, FL-122 and a form Response to Motion, FL-123 are found in the court forms. Alimony is difficult to get. Look at *Will the Court Order Spousal Support (Alimony)?*, page 10, to see what the court will consider.

## **What If There is Domestic Abuse?**

You may be filing for divorce because your spouse has harassed or physically abused you. It is important that you tell this to your lawyer. If you have a protective order or no-contact order, you should note this on the petition, FL-101. If you do not have a protective order but need one, you can ask for a protective order in the divorce. The protective order forbids your spouse from contacting you.

An abusive spouse tends to say he or she is sorry and promises not to repeat the abusive behavior. However, the abuse usually continues. It often becomes more violent in time, especially when the abuser believes he/she is “losing” the other spouse. Domestic violence intervention programs offer temporary housing and counseling for victims of violence.

Also, evidence of abuse has an effect on decisions about counseling and mediation. Some courts require mediation in divorce cases. Mediation is a way of helping the parties come to an agreement. See *What is Mediation*, page 9. If domestic abuse is involved in the relationship, a party can ask the court to waive any court-ordered mediation.

Contact Iowa Legal Aid and ask for the booklet *Domestic Abuse and the Law*. Call the 24-hour statewide, toll-free number to find out about the local Domestic Abuse Program that can help you.

# **Statewide Domestic Abuse Hotline:** **1-800-942-0333**

## **What Should I Do if I Was Served Divorce Papers?**

If you are the Respondent and have been served the Original Notice, you must file an Answer with the Court within 20 days. Use FL-115 if the petitioner used court form FL-101 or use FL-116, if the petitioner did not use form FL-101.

If you do not file an answer, the divorce will continue but you will not be taking part. The Court will grant a divorce without your input. You might not even know about it (divorce by default). So, if you get notice and cannot afford a lawyer, you can place a written answer on file with the Clerk of Court on your own using the court forms. There are instructions included with these forms that tell you what you need to do.

The Answer tells the court what parts of the petition you agree with, and which ones you don't. It is also the place to ask the court for certain things you might want that are not in the petition. For example, you may ask for both spouses to go to counseling to try to save the marriage.

## **What Happens after the Answer Is Filed?**

After the petition has been filed, and the other spouse is served with (gets a copy of) the petition, a waiting period of 90 days is required. After the waiting period, the final hearing takes place and the divorce decree is granted.

Please note that the court does not automatically enter a decree after 90 days have passed. The decree is entered only after the parties have filed their stipulation setting all issues arising out of the divorce. A short hearing may be needed to finalize the divorce. In certain cases, a decree can be entered without a hearing (see the top of this page). If no settlement can be reached, the Court enters a decree after a trial takes place before the Court. The trial allows the Court to hear all the testimony and to review the evidence.

## **What If One Spouse Wants Marriage Counseling?**

Either spouse or the Court may request counseling. The Court may require the parties to take part in these efforts for a period of 60 days or less.

## **Working Out a Stipulation**

The 90-day waiting period and after is also used by the parties to negotiate a settlement. Spouses can use FL-128 to work out a settlement agreement. Matters such as property ownership, spousal support (alimony), and division of debts should be decided. In most cases settlements are agreed upon through this negotiation process and approved by the Court at a final hearing.

If the parties cannot reach an agreement, a Pre-Trial Conference is scheduled. The parties and their lawyers (if any) meet with court personnel or a judge to determine which issues the court will resolve. A trial will be scheduled sometime after the conference and at least 90 days after the petition was filed. Divorce cases are heard by a judge without a jury. Most of the time these trials are closed to the public.

## **What is Mediation?**

Mediation is when a neutral third person agrees to help the spouses work out an agreement. It is used when the spouses can't agree on custody or how to divide property, etc. The court can require the spouses to take part in mediation if the judge thinks it will help resolve their differences. A spouse can also request it. However, if there is a history of domestic abuse, the court can't order mediation. The law is starting to favor mediation more and more. Therefore, the Court will often require parties to go through mediation or some type of settlement conference before granting the divorce. They want to give the parents every chance to work differences out before they actually go to trial.

## **What Financial Information Will the Court Want?**

Both parties are required by the Court to make a true and complete statement of their financial status. In addition to details on current income and expenses, each party must list his/her property. This includes cars, real estate, cash value of life insurance policies, cash and bank accounts, household contents, investments, pension or retirement plans, and other property.

This is called a "Financial Affidavit." Fill out Form FL-124 after reviewing the instructions to the Form. It must be filed before the divorce hearing, unless waived by both parties. Parties who want alimony will generally not be able to waive financial information. The Court must be aware of the parties' finances to make an informed decision on alimony.

## **How Will the Court Divide the Marital Property?**

The standard for how to split up property in Iowa is that it must be divided "equitably." This means it must be fair under the circumstances. Equitable does not always mean each party will get half of the property, unless giving each half is the fairest solution after considering all factors.

The Court will consider more than just income and expenses to create a fair division of property. Listed below are some of the areas the court considers when dividing the property:

- The length of the marriage.
- The age and physical and emotional health of the parties.
- How much each party contributes to the marriage, including what each party pays towards homemaking.
- The property brought to the marriage by each party.
- How much one party contributes to the education, training or increased earning power of the other.
- How much each party is able to earn.

The court will also consider other economic factors for each party. For example, a pension fund brought into the marriage may end up being an asset to be divided. Gifts received by either party should continue to be separate property unless it would be unfair to consider them as such. Gifts given to the parties jointly are subject to division, just like all of the other marital assets.

The property settlement is final once a divorce decree is entered. A property settlement can be challenged within one year of the entry of the decree, but only where one party deceived the other, or threatened the other with harm to force an agreement, or where there was a mistake. (Alimony payments may be changed in the future, however.)

## **Will the Court Order Spousal Support (Alimony)?**

The Court may order alimony payments to either party. Alimony is not a right or automatic. Generally, alimony is hard to get. The Court will look at many of the same concerns mentioned earlier under property. Other factors include:

1. Whether or not the party asking for support can become self-supporting at a standard of living close to that enjoyed during the marriage.
2. What property has been awarded to the spouse asking for support.
3. Any tax consequences to each party.
4. Any agreement made by the parties on their finances or services.

The Court will take into account anything else that matters in this particular case. It is important to note that if alimony is not included in the original decree, it will not be possible to have it added later.

Alimony can be ordered for a specific period of time (for example, three years) or until the recipient spouse dies or remarries. In some situations, living with someone else may be enough to stop alimony payments. Some people have argued that this is the same as being remarried.

## **What Is a “COLA?”**

COLA stands for “cost-of-living adjustment.” In five years prices for basic necessities such as food and clothing will probably be higher. You may want to include terms for a cost-of-living increase. This is an automatic adjustment for alimony payments as costs rise from year to year.

## **After the Divorce**

### **What If a Party Ignores an Order or the Final Decree?**

Sometimes a party fails to pay support, turn over property, or disobeys another order within the decree. When this happens, the other party may bring a contempt action to try and get the uncooperative party to obey the Court’s orders. Also, parties who fail to comply with court orders may be given a jail sentence, or be deprived of some right that was awarded in the divorce decree.

There is a court fee of \$50 to file a contempt.

### **Can We Change the Final Decree Later?**

Certain terms within a divorce decree (alimony) can change in the future if the party who asks the court to modify the orders can show a substantial change in circumstances. The court knows that reasonable and ordinary changes are likely to occur. So this change must be one that the trial court had no knowledge of at the time of the original decree. Also the change must be permanent and not temporary.

In most cases, if the spouse who gets alimony remarries, a court will end that person’s right to alimony. Also, alimony can only be increased if the original decree awards alimony. If the original decree does not mention alimony, or if it states that no alimony will be awarded, then alimony cannot be ordered later. For this reason, some decrees will order alimony of \$1.00 per month, just so that the right to it isn’t lost and the amount can be increased later. Generally, if the spouse getting alimony payments remarries, these payments will end. Sometimes a spouse does not remarry but has a long-term relationship with someone. This may be enough to stop alimony if it is like a marriage relationship.

Iowa Legal Aid offices are normally open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They are closed on holidays. You should call in advance for an appointment. To find out which regional office serves your county, call or write:

**IOWA LEGAL AID**  
**1111 9th Street, Suite 230**  
**Des Moines, Iowa 50314-2527**  
**Toll-Free Phone: 1-800-532-1275 or call (515) 243-2151**  
**ESPAÑOL (800) 272-0008**

**Information on Iowa Legal Aid Offices is also available on the Web at:**  
**[iowalegalaid.org](http://iowalegalaid.org)**

**CEDAR RAPIDS REGIONAL OFFICE**

210 Second Street SE, Suite 302  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1407  
(319) 364-6108 or Toll-free (800) 332-0419  
*SERVING: Benton, Iowa, Linn, Marshall, Poweshiek and Tama Counties*

**SOUTHWEST IOWA REGIONAL OFFICE**

532 1st Avenue, Suite 300  
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503-0803  
(712) 328-3982 or Toll-free (800) 432-9229  
*SERVING: Adams, Audubon, Carroll, Cass, Crawford, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Shelby and Taylor Counties*

**CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL OFFICE**

1111 9th Street, Suite 380  
Des Moines, Iowa 50314-2527  
(515) 243-1193 or Toll-free (800) 532-1503  
*SERVING: Adair, Boone, Clarke, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton, Jasper, Madison, Polk, Story, Union, Warren and Webster Counties*

**NORTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL OFFICE**

799 Main Street, Suite 280  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-6825  
(563) 588-4653 or Toll-free (800) 942-4619  
*SERVING: Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Jackson, Jones and Winneshiek Counties*

**IOWA CITY REGIONAL OFFICE**

430 Iowa Avenue  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240-1810  
(319) 351-6570 or Toll-free (800) 272-0008  
*SERVING: Cedar, Des Moines, Henry, Johnson, Louisa, Muscatine and Washington Counties*

**NORTH CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL OFFICE**

600 1st Street NW, Suite 103  
Mason City, Iowa 50401-2947  
(641) 423-4651 or Toll-free (800) 392-0021  
*SERVING: Calhoun, Cerro Gordo, Emmet, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Humboldt, Kossuth, Mitchell, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Winnebago, Worth and Wright Counties*

**SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL OFFICE**

112 East 3rd Street  
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501-2903  
(641) 683-3166 or Toll-free (800) 452-0007  
*SERVING: Appanoose, Davis, Decatur, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Lucas, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Van Buren, Wapello and Wayne Counties*

**NORTHWEST IOWA REGIONAL OFFICE**

520 Nebraska Street, Suite 337  
Sioux City, Iowa 51101-1315  
(712) 277-8686 or Toll-free (800) 352-0017  
*SERVING: Buena Vista, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Ida, Lyon, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Sac, Sioux and Woodbury Counties*

**WATERLOO REGIONAL OFFICE**

607 Sycamore Street, Suite 708  
Waterloo, Iowa 50703-4799  
(319) 235-7008 or Toll-free (800) 772-0039  
*SERVING: Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy, Hardin and Howard Counties*

**HELP LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

736 Federal Street, Suite 1401  
Davenport, Iowa 52803-5723  
(563) 322-6216  
*SERVING: Scott and Clinton Counties*

Iowa Legal Aid is committed to providing quality legal services to eligible low-income people. However, due to limits placed on our program, we cannot help every person who applies for service. Complaint procedures have been established for clients and members of the general public who disagree with Iowa Legal Aid decisions. For a detailed copy of our complaint procedures, contact any Iowa Legal Aid office.

# www.iowalegalaid.org

Answers to Questions on the Law & Resources for Low-Income Iowans

## QUICK REFERENCE

### HOME PAGE:

*This link will take you to the "Topics" page (see below).*

*These links will take you to the other pages of the Iowa Legal Aid Website, including the the Legal Hotline for Older Iowans and details on how Iowa Legal Aid is working for fairness for low-income Iowans*

**Legal Information and Other Resources for Iowans**

**Legal Resources for Iowans Age 60 and Over**

**Legal Resources for Iowa Volunteer Attorneys**

**About Iowa Legal Aid**

**Donate to Iowa Legal Aid**

**Iowa Legal Aid Website**

**Iowa Legal Aid**  
1111 9th Street, Suite 230  
Des Moines, IA 50314

*This link is to probono.net/iowa-a website with resources for attorneys and advocates.*

*Help support the work of Iowa Legal Aid. This link will take you to the Campaign for Equal Justice page.*

### TOPICS PAGE:

*Click a topic to go to the "Subtopics" page for details on resources.*

**Iowa Legal Aid**

**Iowa Legal Aid**

Working for Fairness

National LawHelp | Referral Finder | ILAW Help | Legal Aid Directory

Welcome To get started

**60+**

**Disability**  
Rights of People with Disabilities

**Family and Domestic Violence**  
Child Custody

**Health**  
Resources for Care Providers Service Agencies

**Individual**  
Guardianship

**QUESTIONS? Click here for LIVE CHAT**

**HELLO**  
How May I Help You?  
powered by LIVEPERSON

*Click on "Live Chat" to start a "chat session" where you can get help finding resources on ILAW.*

*Have a comment? Send an email to let us know.*

Feedback | ILAW News How Did We Do?

This service can help you find information about the law on the Iowa Legal Aid web site. It will not provide you with legal advice or tell you what you should do about your legal problem.

Using this service does not mean that Iowa Legal Aid will act as your attorney. Also the information you provide is not confidential. Do not provide any information which is confidential. It is possible that the other person or entity involved in your legal problem may also contact us for information. Required items indicated with \*

*The Iowa Legal Aid Website is maintained by legal aid staff to provide easy-to-understand information about the legal rights and responsibilities of low-income Iowans. The site explains Iowa and federal law on a wide range of legal topics including family, housing, consumer, and health law. You can also find out about local services available in your community. Visit the Iowa Legal Aid Website and let us know what you think we can do to make our website more useful. Send comments using the “Feedback” link at the top of any page.*

## SUBTOPICS PAGE:

*“View All Subtopics” will list all resources for this topic.*

**IOWA LEGAL AID** Iowa Legal Aid Website  
Working for Fairness

ILAW Home Referral Finder

**Housing**

To get general legal information, click on the sub-topic that best matches your legal problem.

- Discrimination and Sexual Harassment
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Landlord and Tenant Issues
- Other Housing Issues

[View All Subtopics](#)

Disclaimer

The Iowa Legal Aid Website is a project of Iowa Legal Aid, the Volunteer Lawyers Bar Associations, and HELP Legal Assistance. LSC

Feedback | ILAW News

*Have a comment? Send an email to let us know.*

**Choose Another Location**  
Select a county  
Or, enter a new zip code

*Click a subtopic you want to know about and go to the Resources page.*

*You can enter your county by name or your zip code now or later to get local information.*

## RESOURCES PAGE:

*Click this tab to get a popup menu and select your county or enter your zip code. After you select the county, you will get a list of local offices providing free legal help. Click on any program for details.*

**IOWA LEGAL AID** Iowa Legal Aid Website  
Working for Fairness

ILAW Home Referral Finder

**Housing > Landlord and Tenant Issues**

**Where to Get Free Legal Help**

- Legal Information
- Where to Get Other Help

*Click here to go back to the “Topics” page and start over on a new subject.*

*Find local sources of help on issues involving basic necessities, fundamental rights, or safety.*

Explaining the Landlord and Tenant Act and Providing Self-Help Information

There are 10 results

**Choose Another Subtopic**  
Discrimination and Sexual Harassment  
Foreclosure Prevention  
Other Housing Issues  
[View All Subtopics](#)

requirements?  
By: Iowa Legal Aid LSC

Housing: How My Landlord Learned to Make Repairs



HOPE. DIGNITY. JUSTICE.

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by

IOWA LEGAL AID

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