

Table of Contents

Find a Lawyer

Who is a Lawyer?

A lawyer, also called an attorney, is someone who is licensed to practice law. Only a lawyer licensed to practice law in Virginia can provide you legal advice about a legal issue in Virginia.

How do I find a lawyer?

The Virginia State Bar, the organization that licenses attorneys, offers [information for the public](#), as well as a [Lawyer Referral Service](#), through which you may consult an attorney for a limited time at a reduced fee. The toll-free telephone number is **1-800-552-7977**.

Some county bar associations also offer lawyer referral services that can be found through an internet search, [your local court](#) or [your local law library](#).

How do I find a free lawyer?

Low-income persons may be eligible for legal assistance in civil matters through their [local legal aid office](#). You also can call **1-866-LEGLAID (1-866-534-5243)** to reach your local legal aid office.

The [disAbility Law Center of Virginia](#) helps people with disabilities obtain services and treatment for disability-related problems like abuse, neglect, and discrimination. Individuals with problems covered by the Center's Program Goals, may receive advocacy services and/or legal representation. Call **804-225-2042** or **800-552-3962** for more information.

The Virginia State Bar offers a guide : [Free and Low-Cost Legal Resources in Virginia](#).

In criminal cases, persons charged with criminal offenses that carry jail time may be eligible for a public defender or court appointed lawyer, if they cannot afford a lawyer.

Who else can help me?

Other people may give you information, but ONLY a lawyer licensed in Virginia can give you legal advice, file documents for you, or represent you in court.

Court Staff

Your local court must be neutral and impartial. Court staff cannot give you advice, but they can give you legal information, such as instructions about procedure, and forms. [Learn more](#) about what courts can and cannot do.

Mediators

People often find a mediator to be very helpful in resolving their matter, but a mediator is a neutral person, often a non-lawyer, and cannot give you legal advice. Only a lawyer licensed to practice law in Virginia can give you legal advice. It is entirely appropriate to get some legal advice from an attorney while working with a mediator. Visit our [Find a Mediator](#) page to learn more.

Notarios

Notarios are not lawyers, cannot give you legal advice, and cannot represent you in court. See the [Virginia State Bar](#) for more information about notarios and immigration fraud.

Friends

Friends who are not lawyers cannot give you legal advice. Friends cannot represent you in court. Friends can give you moral support and may be a good source of professional referrals, but they are not allowed to help you in the courtroom.

REMEMBER: Only a lawyer can represent you in court.

Last updated on September 25, 2025.

[lawyer](#) [legal aid](#) [mediator](#)

How helpful do you find the information on this page?

- ☐ Not helpful
- ☐ Somewhat helpful
- ☐ Very helpful

Save

Please tell us why this page wasn't helpful

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Not related to my issue
- ☐ Not enough information
- ☐ Unclear information

Comment

[About text formats](#)

Plain text

- No HTML tags allowed.
- Lines and paragraphs break automatically.
- Web page addresses and email addresses turn into links automatically.

Save

Print

Print

Table of Contents

NEWS

News & publications

[More News](#)

April 23, 2025

Guide to Virginia Legal Information Resources (2025)

An updated Guide to Virginia Legal Information Resources has been released...

[Read More about Guide to Virginia Legal Information Resources \(2025\)](#)

March 25, 2025

A Guide to Self-Representation in the Court of Appeals of Virginia

The Court of Appeals has issued a Self-Represented Litigant Guide to assist...

[Read More about A Guide to Self-Representation in the Court of Appeals of Virginia](#)

PDF downloaded from <https://selfhelp.vacourts.gov/page/5/find-lawyer>