

Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help

Resources for Self-Represented Litigants

selfhelp.vacourts.gov



Find Your Court

How do I find the right court?

Step 1. What kind of case do you have?

- Custody, support, domestic violence, paternity determination, juvenile traffic infraction, as well as other family and juvenile matters, are heard in the **Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court** (*click for full list of case types and other general information*)
- Adult traffic infractions, landlord - tenant matters, non-family abuse protective orders, misdemeanors and money cases up to \$25,000 are heard in the **General District Court** (*click for full list of case types and other general information*)
- Divorce, probate, guardianship and conservatorship, felonies and other matters, are heard in the **Circuit Court** (*click for full list of case types and other general information*)

Step 2. Which court has jurisdiction? (for example, the power to decide the case because one of the parties lives there; a traffic stop occurred there; an apartment was rented there, etc.)

- If you are unsure of the name of the city or county where the court is located, but know generally where it is, this map showing how Virginia's cities and counties are divided into Judicial Circuits and Districts may be helpful:
<http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/maps/home.html>.

Step 3. Select your court and then by location with the drop-down.

- **Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court**
- **General District Court**
- **Circuit Court**

? OR

Individual locations for each court can be accessed via a drop-down tool under each type of court
<http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/home.html>.

Printed:February 17, 2018

<http://selfhelp.vacourts.gov/node/4/find-your-court>

©Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help