

Defending or bringing a case without a lawyer can be tough.



Federal court can be an intimidating place, even for lawyers who have spent years studying and practicing law. The program allows litigants proceeding in federal court without a lawyer to meet with a lawyer who can provide limited information. But litigants should understand that it's not a replacement for a lawyer retained to represent them, and retaining a lawyer is ordinarily the wisest plan.



Free
Tuesdays
By Phone or Video
Appointment Only

Legal Information Program

Free opportunity to meet with a lawyer who can provide limited legal information to litigants proceeding without a lawyer in a case in the **Ocala Division** of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. This program is sponsored by the Orlando Chapter of the Federal Bar Association



Federal Bar Association
Orlando Chapter

The Program is Not ...

The program is **not** a replacement for retaining a lawyer, and the lawyers involved in the program will not undertake representation of anyone using the program. They will:

- **Not** help with a criminal matter
- **Not** help with an immigration matter
- **Not** help with a bankruptcy matter
- **Not** help with a state court matter
- **Not** help with a habeas matter
- **Not** help with an appeals court matter
- **Not** investigate the facts
- **Not** research or write documents
- **Not** negotiate with the other side
- **Not** appear on someone's behalf
- **Not** pay costs or fees incurred by a party
- **Not** appoint counsel or serve as counsel
- **Not** help if the opponent was already helped
- **Not** help if it would violate Florida Bar rules
- **Not** help someone found to be vexatious
- **Not** help someone who overuses the program



The Program is ...

The program offers litigants proceeding in federal court without a lawyer access to a lawyer who will answer general questions about procedures that govern cases in federal court. Those using the program can meet with a lawyer during program hours to receive:

- Information about federal court procedures
- Information about law applied to the facts
- Information about where a case should be filed
- Information about orders or other paperwork
- Information about preparing pleadings
- Information about preparing motions
- Information about discovery
- Information about mediation and settlement
- Guidance on where to access legal information
- Information about courtroom attire/decorum
- Referrals to other services, if appropriate

The program is not affiliated with or related to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

To make the most of the lawyer's limited time, come prepared:

- Bring a list of questions to ask
- Email all relevant court papers and pertinent documents, as the lawyer will be meeting with you by phone or video.
- Research the facts and the law
- Read the *Guide for Proceeding Without a Lawyer* available at the clerk's office and on the website www.flmd.uscourts.gov.
- Browse other materials for proceeding without a lawyer on the website www.flmd.uscourts.gov

Details

Appointments available by phone or video.

Every **Tuesday** from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Help provided by attorneys from Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida.

Appointments are required.

To make an appointment, please visit www.flmd.uscourts.gov/legal-information-program and click the link for Ocala Division appointments.

For assistance, call (352) 369-4860 or visit the Clerk's Office and ask to make an appointment at the check-in window.