

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.

Federal Bar Association
Tampa Bay Chapter



Free
Tuesdays, by Appointment
(Walk-ins accepted as time allows)

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 United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, sponsored by the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association



Federal Bar Association
Tampa Bay Chapter



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.

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



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

- Bring a list of questions to ask
- Bring all court papers
- Bring all pertinent documents
- Research the facts and the law
- Read the *Guide for Proceeding Without a Lawyer* available at the clerk's office (address below) and on the website www.flmd.uscourts.gov
- Browse other materials for proceeding without a lawyer on the website www.flmd.uscourts.gov

Availability

Appointment Hours

Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Appointment Format

In Person: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month
Virtual: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month

Location (for In-Person Appointments)

Sam Gibbons United States Courthouse
Clerk's Office, Second Floor
801 N. Florida Avenue, Tampa, FL 33602

Appointments are strongly encouraged.

To make an appointment, please call (813) 301-5400 or visit the Clerk's Office and ask to make an appointment at the check-in window. Walk-ins are accepted as time allows on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays.