

LEGAL ASSISTANCE



Service changes may have been affected due to COVID 19. Please call 2-1-1, or contact organizations by phone for service updates.

A starting point for finding resources that can help you legal assistance, representation, and mediation.

General Assistance

2-1-1 Heart of West Michigan United Way

hwmuw.org/211

Live chat: hwmuw.org/211-live-chat

Dial 2-1-1

United Way's 2-1-1 connects people to thousands of services in Kent County. Whoever you are, whatever your needs, 2-1-1 makes it easy to find help for yourself, a neighbor, or a loved one. Please note that 2-1-1 is an information and referral service and does not provide direct services or financial assistance.

Baxter Community Center

935 Baxter SE, Grand Rapids || 616-456-8593 x216

wearebaxter.org

Sponsors lawyer Jeffrey Portko on certain Saturdays throughout the year. Porto is available to answer legal questions including landlord issues, bankruptcy, and more.

Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan

678 Front Ave NW Suite 250, Grand Rapids || 616-774-0121

drcwm.org

Provides confidential and affordable mediation services, including legal, neighbor, workplace, civil rights, parenting, contracts, and many other kinds of disputes.

Legal Assistance Center

180 Ottawa Ave NW Suite 5100, Grand Rapids || 616-632-6000

legalassistancecenter.org

Offers legal information and forms about family, housing, small claims, guardianship, and other issues. Does not provide legal advice or representation.

MiChildSupport - DHHS

The MiChildSupport portal has added a What's New section to their site to address issues unique to the COVID-19 pandemic. They have created a document of FAQs addressing questions of child support and shared custody, Michigan Child Support Covid-19 Question and Answer. Additional resources can be found at the American Bar Association's COVID-19 and Family Law Issues.

Income Based

Legal Aid of Western Michigan

25 Division Ave S, Suite 300, Grand Rapids || 616-774-0672

lawestmi.org

Provides free legal assistance to low-income individuals facing a civil legal problem. Will defend, but not initiate custody cases.

Mel Trotter Ministries

225 Commerce Av SW, Grand Rapids || 616-454-8249

meltrrotter.org

Partners with various agencies to provide free legal guidance to low income individuals. Legal volunteers are not able to represent in court.

Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids

123 Wealthy St SE, Grand Rapids || 616-243-0491

grdiocese.org

Provides low-cost legal representation in immigration matters, through Immigration Legal Services. Staff help their clients re-unite families, obtain citizenship and permanent resident status, and assist victims of crime.

Migrant Legal Aid

1104 Fuller Ave NE, Grand Rapids || 616-454-5055

migrantlegallaid.org

Provides programs and services to help ensure migrants are not subject to discriminatory treatment, focusing on five areas: advocacy, community education, outreach, legal advice, and representation/referrals.

Other Resources

Elder Law of Michigan

3815 W St. Joseph, Suite C-200, Lansing || 1-866-400-9164

Offers free access to attorneys for Michigan residents, age 60 and older. Provides advice on issues such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, will, real estate, personal injury, and other matters

Hispanic Center of West Michigan

1204 Grandville Ave SW, Grand Rapids || 616-742-0200

hispanic-center.org

Provides power of attorney letters, passport applications, birth certificate information, and immigration-related concerns. The center also sponsors Project H.O.P.E., which offers legal support for those impacted by domestic violence, assault, dating violence, or stalking.

Kent County Renters Alliance

671 Davis NW/745 Eastern Ave SE. Grand Rapids

Offers free legal advice for renters located in Kent County. The Alliance has two offices: West Side Free Legal Advice (671 Davis NW) and South Side Free Legal Advice (745 Eastern Ave SE). Walk-in and Spanish accessible.

Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc.

4095 Legacy Pkwy, Suite 500, Lansing || 517-487-1755

MPAS is a non-profit organization which provides legal assistance for people with disabilities. Services include information and referral, legal representation, systemic advocacy, monitoring, and training.