



Welcome to the
Probate and Family Court
Department of the
Massachusetts Trial Court.

Many Probate and
Family Law matters
involve complex and
valuable legal rights.
You should always
speak with an attorney
before filing any papers.

LOOKING FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE?

This booklet
contains a list of
Lawyer Referral Services,
Free Legal Resources and
Legal Aid Agencies in

ESSEX COUNTY

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES

LEGAL RESOURCES

The
Massachusetts
Trial Court
provides free
legal resources

MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

Referrals to private attorneys, including reduced fee panel.
Call (617) 654-0400 or (800) 392-6164
e-mail: lrs@massbar.org
To register online, visit
www.massbar.org/lawhelp/

BOSTON BAR ASSOCIATION

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

Referrals to private attorneys, including reduced fee panel.
Serves mainly Greater Boston, inside Route 495, but will
provide referrals throughout Massachusetts.
Call (617) 742-0625 or e-mail: lrs@bostonbar.org
For more information, visit
www.bostonbar.org/lrs/

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

OF ESSEX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Referrals to private attorneys in Essex County.
Call (978) 741-7888 or (800) 228-2574

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

Serves Lowell and Lynn. Lawyer referral service geared to
low and moderate income clients, women and minority
rights issues but will take any case. Spanish speaking staff
available.
Call (617) 227-7008 Mon - Fri 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
or leave a message

MASSACHUSETTS JUDICIAL BRANCH WEB SITE

The official web site of the Judicial Branch includes
judicial profiles, addresses, phone numbers and
directions for courthouses as well as other useful
information about the Trial Court. Click on
www.state.ma.us/courts

ESSEX LAW LIBRARY

Superior Courthouse
34 Federal Street
Salem, MA 01970

LAWRENCE LAW LIBRARY

Fenton Judicial Center
2 Appleton Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

The Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries are open to the public, providing legal reference services and legal research assistance. The Salem library is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Lawrence library is open from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday; and 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Ask at the Registry of Probate for the Law Libraries pamphlet which provides more details.

Call (978) 741-0674 (Salem)
(978) 687-7608 (Lawrence)
or visit the Law Libraries web site
www.lawlib.state.ma.us

TEL-LAW

Tel-Law is a collection of recorded messages designed to answer basic questions about the law. Tel-Law is fully automated and you can access it 24 hours/day by calling (617) 338-0669. (Toll charges may apply)

WEB SITE

The MBA's web site offers answers to basic legal questions. Point your browser to www.massbar.org

DIAL-A-LAWYER

The first Wednesday of every month you can get free legal help, by telephone, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Lawyer volunteers staff phones to answer your questions. Call (617) 338-0610

**LEGAL
SERVICE
AGENCIES**

These resources are available only to very low income and elderly individuals

MERRIMACK VALLEY LEGAL SERVICES

170 Common Street, Suite 303
Lawrence, MA 01840
Call (978) 687-1177

Handles divorce and custody cases for primary caretaker if case involves recent abuse or child custody dispute.

Serves Amesbury, Andover, Boxford, Byfield, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Merrimac, Methuen, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

37 Friend Street
Lynn, MA 01902
(781) 599-7730 or (800) 747-5056

Pro Se Divorce Clinic (In English and Spanish) for uncontested divorces for custodial and non-custodial parent as long as there is no domestic abuse. Weekly help line to answer brief family law questions via telephone. Will also provide direct representation in a limited number of domestic abuse cases in Southern Essex County (Beverly, Danvers, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lynn, Lynnfield, Manchester-By-the-Sea, Marblehead, Middleton, Nahant, Peabody, Rockport, Salem, Saugus, Swampscott, Topsfield and Wenham only).

LEGAL ADVOCACY & RESOURCE CENTER

Provides telephone information, pro se assistance and referrals to legal service agencies.
Intake hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Call (800) 342-5297

Free resources offered by the Massachusetts Bar Association

LAWYER
OF THE
DAY

LAWYER OF THE DAY

Private, volunteer attorney offers brief consultation at the courthouse providing basic legal advice to qualifying individuals on a walk-in basis. Attorney does not continue to advise the individual after initial meeting or accompany individual into the courtroom. Attorney may not be available every day. For availability, call (978) 744-1020 or ask at the Registry of Probate.