

Justiceworks, Ltd.'s Family Law Assistance Project offers unrepresented family law litigants assistance with legal forms, court procedures and referral information for community resources.

### Location

The Family Law Assistance Project is a project of the not-for-profit community justice organization, Justiceworks, Ltd. located in Stevens Point, Wisconsin

*Justiceworks, Ltd is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.*



### Additional Resources:

Wisconsin Court System:  
[wicourts.gov](http://wicourts.gov)

The Wisconsin State Law Library:  
[wilawlibrary.gov](http://wilawlibrary.gov)

Legal Information and Education Resource:  
[legalexplorer.com](http://legalexplorer.com)

Wisconsin Department of Children & Families:  
[dcf.wisconsin.gov](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov)

Clerk of Court::

Child Support::

Family Crisis Center:

Civil Legal Services:

Justiceworks, Ltd  
1578 Strongs Ave  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-344-3677  
[www.justiceworksltd.org](http://www.justiceworksltd.org)



# FAMILY LAW ASSISTANCE PROJECT



# About the Justiceworks Family Law Assistance Project

The majority of divorces filed with the Clerk of Courts Offices around the state list no attorney for either involved party. In these cases, called pro se divorces, individual litigants represent themselves in family law proceedings without legal assistance. Statewide court statistics demonstrate a dramatic increase in pro se proceedings.

Family law proceedings involve complicated procedures and rules which can challenge even well trained lawyers. During the divorce process and final divorce judgment, a court may enter orders on:

- ◆ Custody, placement, and support of minor children
- ◆ Maintenance
- ◆ Property division
- ◆ Payment of debts

When individuals come to court unfamiliar with the process and unprepared, they are unable to provide complete and accurate information to the judge. This creates costly time burdens for the courts, and lessens the likelihood that the parties will receive an optimal result.

To offer state-wide assistance, non-profit community justice organization Justiceworks Ltd. launched the Family Law Assistance Project after 10 years of success operating the Family Law Information Center serving Portage County.

Our experienced and well-trained staff will assist individuals with legal matters pertaining to family law issues but does not give legal advice to any individual.

Staff will also assist you in understanding the court process and legal forms *at any time during the divorce process*. We encourage all litigants to return for additional help after the initial filing process.

## ***How do I get started?***

For more information or to get started, contact the Justiceworks office at 715-344-3677 or send an inquiry email to [info@justiceworksltd.org](mailto:info@justiceworksltd.org). Reference the Family Law Assistance Project to assure you are directed to appropriate staff.

Access to justice should not be determined by limited finances. As a non-for-profit organization, Justiceworks utilizes a sliding fee scale to determine fees based on an individual's ability to pay. Project staff will provide more information about fees during the initial inquiries.

Call or email the Justiceworks' office to set up your initial consultation. At this initial meeting, you may be provided with the Justiceworks Pro Se Guide and court forms. The Justiceworks Pro Se Guide contains step-by-step process information, definitions of basic family law legal terms and testimony guidelines.

Program staff will help you review and understand the divorce guide, filing process and court forms. It is recommended that you contact staff for assistance early in the process and proceed with your family law action one step at a time so you are best prepared for court hearings and do not become confused or overwhelmed. Our experienced staff will review all paperwork prior to filing. All necessary paperwork is available in electronic format to ensure a prompt response. All paperwork is also available for download from the website of the Wisconsin State Court System.

## ***Should I Represent Myself?***

Representing yourself in court is a big decision. Most people come to court because they need legal guidance to resolve disputes. In many matters, such as a disputed divorce or a complicated child custody case, it is best to obtain legal representation. If you are unsure whether to represent yourself in court it is always a good decision to consult with an attorney first to help you determine the best course of action for your particular situation.

Even when individuals consider all of the reasons why they should obtain a lawyer, many people still decide to represent themselves in court. If you choose to proceed unrepresented, the Family Law Assistance Project is here to assist you.

## ***The Justiceworks Family Law Assistance Project will:***

- ◆ Help you understand the family court process and the court forms
- ◆ Provide you with all necessary family court forms
- ◆ Provide information regarding Wisconsin statutory law
- ◆ Refer you to community and legal resource information in your area
- ◆ Serve as a resource at any point during the process, from initial filing to final hearing

## ***The Justiceworks Family Law Assistance Project will not:***

- ◆ Give you legal advice
- ◆ Fill out your court forms
- ◆ Give you an opinion about your case
- ◆ Recommend a specific attorney