

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 an opportunity to meet face-to-face 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.

Tampa Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

www.fedbar.org/chapters/tampa-bay

Free at the Courthouse
Tuesdays ▪ 1:00 to 2:30

Legal Information Program

Free face-to-face time with a real 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 Jacksonville, Orlando, and Tampa chapters 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 lawyers who will answer general questions about procedures that govern cases in federal court. Those using the program can visit lawyers during program hours with or without an appointment 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 or appellate matter
- **Not** investigate the facts
- **Not** help by computer or, in most instances, phone
- **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 lawyers' 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

Hours & Location

Hours

Every Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location

Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse
Second Floor (next to Clerk's Office)
801 North Florida Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33602

Appointments

Appointments are not required but are recommended.

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.