

# WELCOME TO THE MARYLAND COURTS

**This is a list of some of the things court staff can and cannot do for you.**

<b>We can</b>	direct you to a self-help center where you can receive assistance in representing yourself.	<b>We cannot</b>	tell you whether or not you should bring your case to court.
<b>We can</b>	provide you with the number of a local lawyer referral service, legal services program or other service where you can get legal help.	<b>We cannot</b>	tell you what words to use in your papers. We can, however, check your papers for completeness before you file them.
<b>We can</b>	give you information about law libraries and online resources.	<b>We cannot</b>	tell you what to say in court.
<b>We can</b>	explain and answer questions about how the court works.	<b>We cannot</b>	give you an opinion about what will happen if you bring your case to court.
<b>We can</b>	give you general information about court rules, procedures and practices.	<b>We cannot</b>	talk to the judge for you.
<b>We can</b>	provide you with available court forms and instructions.	<b>We cannot</b>	let you talk to the judge outside of court.
<b>We can</b>	provide court schedules and information on how to get a case scheduled.	<b>We cannot</b>	change an order signed by a judge.
<b>We can</b>	provide you information from your case file.	<b>We cannot</b>	give you information about a judge's decision until the judge makes that decision public.
<b>We can</b>	answer some basic questions about court deadlines and how they are determined.	<b>We cannot</b>	give you information that we would be unable or unwilling to provide the other side in your case.
<b>We can</b>	provide additional assistance in some circumstances to aid you if you have special needs.	<b>We cannot</b>	interpret court documents or tell you what you "should" do.

Since court staff may not know the answers to all questions about court rules, procedures and practices, and because we do not want to give you incorrect information, we will not answer questions if we do not know the correct answer. For additional information, please contact a lawyer or your local law library, self-help center or other legal services program.