

DO YOU NEED LEGAL HELP ?

If you need legal help, there are options available to you. The best option is ALWAYS to consult with an attorney. If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, you might be eligible for free legal assistance through Prairie State Legal Services, or through the Peoria County Pro Bono (free legal services) Plan, through which some attorneys provide volunteer legal services to qualified individuals in Tazewell County. Courts recommend that you consult with an attorney.

To contact Prairie State Legal Service's telephone counseling service, call (309) 674-9831 or 1-800-322-2280, available Monday through Friday from 9:05 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 1:05 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. You will be able to speak with a lawyer by phone about your legal problem and may possibly obtain legal representation with your case, if qualified.

If you are not qualified for free legal services, and wish to be represented, you may contact the Illinois State Bar's Lawyer Finder service at www.illinoislawyerfinder.com or 1-800-922-8757, or call the Peoria County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service at (309) 674-1224. These services provide the names of local lawyers with whom you can discuss your legal problem for a very low fee. After the initial consultation, you can decide whether or not to hire the lawyer.

Another service available is the Tazewell County Legal Self Help Center. This free, internet-based service will help you find information about foreclosure and eviction actions, videos on what to do in court, and court documents which you can fill out and file with the Circuit Clerk. You may access this free service on line at <http://tazewell.illinoislegalaid.org>, on your home computer, at public libraries throughout the area, or at the Tazewell County Law Library located in the Courthouse, 342 Court Street, Room 103, where there will be a staff person available during posted hours (presently 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Monday – Friday) to help you use the service and find the information that you need.

If you are facing foreclosure, other available resources include the Illinois Attorney General's Homeowner Helpline, 1-866-544-7151 (Voice/TTY) or 1-312-814-5094, and their website offering links to the Mortgage Lending Guide and Illinois Homeowners Rights Act, at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov; HOPE for Homeowners Preservation Foundation Hotline, 1-888-995-4673; HUD-Certified Housing Counseling Agencies at www.hud.gov; and US government resources at www.makinghomeaffordable.gov.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, other available resources include the Center for Prevention of Abuse. The Center has court advocates at the Tazewell County Courthouse who will provide services including assistance in petitioning and appearing in Court for an Order of Protection, counseling and referral services. You may visit the Center's local office at the corner of Fourth and Court Streets in Pekin (diagonally across the street from the Tazewell County Courthouse), or call 1-309-477-3066, or you may go directly to the Center's advocacy office located in Room 301 of the Tazewell County Courthouse in Pekin, from 9:00 am to noon, and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Please keep in mind that advocates, legal self-help navigators, and other courthouse personnel are not permitted to provide legal advice or legal guidance to you. If you do wish to obtain legal advice, you should seek the services of an attorney, or access one of the options listed above.