

Legal Self-Help Office

Douglas County District Court

Judicial Center, 111 E. 11th Street, Room 5

Lawrence, Kansas 66044-2900

Director: Brandy Nichols-Brajkovic



Location & Hours:

DG County Judicial Center, Room 5

Next to Court Security

Walk-in Hours

Mon: 9 a.m. to Noon

Tues: 9 a.m. to Noon

Wed: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Thur: 9 a.m. to Noon

Fri: 9 a.m. to Noon





Contacting Self-Help outside of office hours:

- Appointments can be scheduled outside of walk-in hours.
- E-mail:
- bnichols-brajkovic@douglascountyks.org
- Phone: (785) 838-2483
- Email is typically the fastest way to contact me outside of office hours.

Artwork: Frog by Jackie Campbell

History of Douglas County Self-Help Office





Most requested services

- Eviction/Garnishment/Collections
- Quiet Title on Motor Vehicle
- Divorce
- Paternity – father initiated for custody
- Protection from Abuse/Stalking
- Driver's License Restoration
- Adult Name Change

Self-Help Offices and Equal Access to Justice



Legal assistance and resources to people who may not be able to afford an attorney or have difficulty finding legal services.

Legal information and making legal forms less daunting allows a better understanding of legal rights and responsibilities.

Increases efficiency by helping people navigate the legal system. This helps to reduce the workload of the court system and improve access to justice for all.

Assists in prevention by providing education and resources that help people avoid legal problems before they arise.

Self-Help as a function of the District Court

- Competent
- Neutral: may assist other party
- Unbiased
- Practical legal information to self-represented litigants
- No attorney/client relationship
- Services are not intended to give one side of a case an advantage over another





Self-Help Services:

- Access to information about pending cases.
- Location and copies of legal information.
- Assistance with legal forms.
- Referrals to attorneys. (at this time primarily to KLS but continuing to build network).
- Limited legal advice by volunteer attorneys (currently 3 attorneys).
- Computers to research statutes, law, and open records.

Self-Help Cannot:

- Give legal advice.
- Recommend any specific course of legal action or strategy.
- Complete forms (beyond answer technical questions).
- Interpret statutes, rules, or definitions to apply to a specific situation.
- Advise on rules of evidence, witnesses, objections, or rulings.
- Provide confidential information.





Early Successes

Coordinated mortgage sale overage with Court Clerk's Office to serve a person facing housing instability.

Frustration boiling over in a divorce between parties due to delays and multiple continuances required for court. Text communication with SHC.

Housing stability success story with referral.



Eligibility/Income Requirements

Douglas County Legal Self-Help cannot assist persons represented by an attorney.

Douglas County Legal Self-Help can assist any self-represented litigant with a case in Douglas County District Court or who resides in Douglas County. There are no income or eligibility restrictions.

There is no fee to use the Legal Self-Help Center other than copies that may need to be made in the District Court Clerk's Office as required.



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We need volunteers – community members, students, attorneys, etc.

Goal: full business hours and extended hours at satellite locations.



We want to hear your voice

**Gaps or areas that you would like to see
Self-Help address to increase access to
justice? Questions?**