

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. I am a resident of St. Louis County. Can the County Attorney's Office help me with a legal problem?

Answer: The duties of the County Attorney's Office are established by state statute. Generally, the Civil Division of the County Attorney's Office represents the County as a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota. That representation includes advice to the County Board of Commissioners

Q2. How can I find an attorney to represent me?

Answer: You may check the yellow pages in the telephone book under "Attorneys" Areas of specialization are generally noted. You may also contact the Minnesota Bar Association at 1-800-292-4152 or www.mnbar.org

St. Louis County has a service called "Information and Referral." This service maintains a database of information about community resources in Northeast Minnesota; the service can assist individuals in contacting an attorney who may be able to help with legal problems. You can also call the Information and Referral line at 218-726-2222.

Q3. What should I do if I cannot afford to hire a private attorney?

Answer: Depending on your income and the nature of your case, you may qualify for representation through the Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota – (218) 623-8100 or <http://www.lasnem.org/DNN>

You may also wish to check with the Duluth office of the Volunteer Attorney Program at (218) 723-4005 or www.volunteerattorney.org

Q4. Does your office handle complaints of attorney misconduct?

Answer: Generally, the answer is no. To make a complaint regarding an attorney's ethics or misconduct, you may contact the Lawyer's Professional Board of Responsibility at (651) 296-3952. However, if you believe that an attorney, or someone else, is practicing law without a valid license, you may contact our office.

Q5. Does your office handle consumer protection issues?

Answer: You may call the Consumer Protection Division of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office at (651) 296-3353, 1-800-657-3787, or www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Complaint.asp with a consumer protection problem.

Q6. Does your office handle landlord/tenant matters?

Answer: Landlord/tenant problems are private issues not handled by the St. Louis County Attorney's Office. The Minnesota Judicial Center website has information about landlord/tenant issues that may help you. Visit www.mncourts.gov/selfhelp

Q7. Can the County Attorney's Office help resolve a boundary dispute with my neighbor?

Answer: The County Attorney's Office cannot help resolve a private dispute. If you cannot resolve a dispute regarding your property we recommend that you contact a private attorney.

Q8. How does the St. Louis County Zoning Ordinance affect me and my property?

Answer: Visit the St. Louis County Planning Department www.co.st-louis.mn.us/Planning or the St. Louis County Zoning Ordinance www.co.st-louis.mn.us/ZoningOrdinance If you live within city limits please contact your city's planning department to determine how a zoning ordinance may apply to your property.