



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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First Judicial District offers aid to self-represented litigants in new center

GOLDEN, Colo. – People representing themselves in non-criminal court proceedings in the First Judicial District (Gilpin and Jefferson counties) can now turn to a new Self-Help Center for assistance in navigating the court system.

The center, open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, is located in the clerk’s office at the Jefferson Combined Court, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, in Golden.

Services, provided at no charge, include connecting clients with community resources to help them solve their legal issues and make their way through the courts, providing forms and assistance with filling them out, and helping clients understand their options to resolve disputes outside the courtroom through mediation or other forms of alternative dispute resolution.

The center is part of a broader program the Colorado Judicial Branch created to help the courts address the ever-growing number of cases in which people forego representation by attorneys. For example, in 75 percent of Colorado divorce cases today, neither party has a lawyer.

“Many people involved in civil matters in Colorado’s courts don’t qualify for help from Colorado Legal Services, but don’t earn enough income to hire private attorneys,” said April

Bernard, self-represented litigant coordinator for the First Judicial District. “We’re here to help fill that gap and broaden access to the justice system.”

For more information, contact April Bernard or Brigitte Smith at 303-271-6570, or visit http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/County/Custom.cfm?County_ID=2&Page_ID=352.