



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Denver courts provide quality service and access for consumers *New and expanded programs serving self-represented litigants*

DENVER – Denver District Court has announced the expansion and relocation of its Self-Represented Litigant Center, which has been in continuous operation for nearly 18 years, representing the court’s longstanding recognition of the ever-increasing population of litigants representing themselves in non-criminal proceedings.

As the need has grown, the Center has expanded and relocated to better serve the customers of the court. The Center recently added more staff, public access terminals and work stations, and assistance in a variety of case types; family, civil, and juvenile matters.

The self-help personnel staff are both lawyers and non-lawyers, as well as volunteers who support, assist and guide self-represented litigants through complex court processes. Center staff will answer questions about court rules and procedures, locating and helping complete the correct court forms, providing an understanding of court options such as mediation or other alternative dispute resolution, and coordinating with legal and community resources. The self-help coordinators cannot give legal advice or represent parties in court. There is no charge for service, regardless of income.

The Center, open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, has locations both in the City and County Building at 1437 Bannock, Room 368, serving civil and domestic matters; and

at the Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse at 520 W. Colfax Ave., Room 125, serving juvenile-related matters. Denver Probate Court personnel will also serve their customers in the City and County Building Center.

In addition to the expansion of the Self-Represented Litigant Center, the Denver District Court Domestic Relations Courts, have recently implemented “Pro Bono Wednesdays.” Every Wednesday, the Denver City and County Building will host volunteer domestic relations attorneys who are donating their services by acting as neutrals. These volunteer attorneys are prepared to help with a broad range of domestic issues such as: reducing information and agreements to writing; mediating simple issues that parties neglected to address through mediation; or, assisting parties that have attended mediation, but require assistance in resolving last minute or unaddressed matters

“With a focus on access to justice, Denver District Court is committed to assisting our consumers,” said Chief Judge Robert Hyatt. “Many individuals in the civil justice system and nearly 70 percent of all family law litigants represent themselves in court. Often they do not qualify for assistance from Colorado Legal Services, yet they simply cannot afford to hire a private attorney. It is imperative that our courts address this ever-increasing need.”

For more information on Denver’s expanded Self-Help Center or Pro Bono Wednesdays, contact the Center at 720-865-8440.