



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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12th Judicial District launches program to assist self-represented litigants

ALAMOSA, Colo. – The 12th Judicial District announced today that it has a new self-help coordinator who can assist people representing themselves in non-criminal court proceedings.

The self-help coordinator can help people representing themselves navigate and understand the court process by answering questions about court rules and procedures, locating and completing court forms, as well as help them understand their options to try to resolve disputes outside the courtroom through mediation or other forms of alternative dispute resolution. The Self-Help Coordinator cannot give legal advice or represent parties in court. There is no charge for the self-help coordinator's services regardless of income.

The 12th Judicial District's self-help program is part of a broader initiative undertaken by the Colorado Judicial Branch in order to help the courts address the ever-growing number of cases in which people forego representation by attorneys. For example, in 63 percent of Colorado divorce cases today, neither party has a lawyer. As part of this broader initiative, the Judicial Branch recently hired 12 case managers to coordinate and provide services to self-represented parties in 11 judicial districts.

“Many people involved in civil matters in Colorado’s courts don’t qualify for help from Colorado Legal Services, but at the same time don’t have enough money to hire an attorney,” said Kimberly Cortez, 12th Judicial District Self-Help Coordinator. “Our mission is to ensure that the people of the 12th Judicial District have access to justice and are equipped with the information necessary to have their day in court.”

The 12th Judicial District’s self-help coordinator is currently available by appointment to assist people with certain types of non-criminal cases and issues. To schedule an appointment, or to find out if assistance is available for your case, please call Cortez at 719-589-7652 or e-mail her at 12selfhelp@judicial.state.co.us.

Appointments may be available at the Alamosa County Courthouse or at one of the other county courthouses within the 12th Judicial District. The 12th Judicial District includes Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties.

Court forms and other self-help information is also available at www.courts.state.co.us and in the clerk’s office.