



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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21st Judicial District opens new center to aid self-represented litigants

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – The 21st Judicial District (Mesa County) has opened its Self-Help Center to provide assistance free of charge to people representing themselves in non-criminal court proceedings.

The center, open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday excluding holidays, is located in the court clerk's office of the Mesa County Justice Center, 125 N. Spruce Street in Grand Junction.

The center, which is staffed at all times, provides a range of services including interactive tutorials on various civil matters, brochures on a variety of court-related topics and information on upcoming clinics.

Clients also can receive help with finding community resources to help with their legal issues, court forms and assistance in filling them out, and information on resolving 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 public and the courts address the ever-growing number of cases in which people forego representation by attorneys. For example, about 75 percent of parties involved in divorce cases in Colorado are not represented by an attorney.

“I envision the Self-Help Center as being a place where people can come for information and leave feeling like they have an understanding of what they need to do,” said Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator Velvet Johnson. “I know first-hand how overwhelming the court system can be to someone unfamiliar with the rules of procedure and unable to hire an attorney. My hope is that we can offer as much assistance as possible to enable litigants to navigate the court system successfully.”

The Center may be reached at 21SelfHelp@judicial.state.co.us or Ms. Johnson may be contacted directly at 970-257-8764.