

IF YOU CHOOSE TO ACT AS YOUR OWN ATTORNEY – PRO SE

We highly recommend consulting an attorney regarding legal matters. However, if you choose, you have the right to represent yourself.

Only an attorney in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is permitted to offer advice or an opinion regarding your legal matter. Anyone who is not an attorney who offers you advice or an opinion regarding your legal documents is engaging in the unauthorized practice of law (UPL).

If you want to obtain the service of an attorney, but do not know whom to contact, you should contact the Monroe County Bar Association at (570)424-7288.

No Prothonotary staff member is permitted by law to offer advice or an opinion regarding your legal matter. They may not provide you with directions or suggestions on how to proceed with your case by law.

Should you choose to represent yourself, you must research the legal rules that apply to your case. Be prepared to spend appropriate time gathering information, completing your documents and following the Local & State Rules of Procedure.

The Monroe County Law Library is open Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30 on the second floor of the Courthouse. The library is open to the public and the service is free. No Law Library staff member is permitted by law to offer advice or an opinion regarding your legal matter.

If you choose to represent yourself, you **must** understand that you must follow the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure in order for your case to be processed and your rights preserved! Civil litigation is a very complex process, and all rules apply even if the dispute **seems** to be a simple matter and/or the case does not involve a lot of money. Failure to follow these rules can result in devastating consequences.

Acting as your own legal representation means you are responsible for accurately and thoroughly researching the rules relevant to your case.

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE-	Monroe County Bar Association	(570) 424-7288
LEGAL SERVICES-	Low income legal solutions	(800) 532-8282 or
	Intake Information Line	(877) 953-4250
	new fax number:	(570) 754-8508

www.palawhelp.org

LOCAL & STATE RULES www.monroebar.org or www.courts.state.pa.us

www.pacode.com: You will find the Rules of Civil Procedure for Pennsylvania through this website. Once you are on Home Page, select "Browse", which will take you to the titles. Then select title 231 for the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure.

www.pacourts.us/learn/representing-yourself **Court forms for Divorce and Custody matters** may be obtained on a dedicated page of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania's website at <http://www.pacourts.us/learn/representing-yourself> and forms.

www.childsupport.state.pa.us related to **child support** through a link from that page to www.childsupport.state.pa.us.

The above "Representing Yourself" page is designed to provide a place for interested parties without the ability to retain counsel to explore resources needed to represent themselves in court. It is not intended to provide legal interpretations or advice.