

CONTACT INFORMATION

Keep the attorney informed of any change in your address or telephone number. You may lose your case (by default) or the attorney may choose to withdraw from your case if he/she cannot locate you when necessary.

CLIENT COSTS

If your application is accepted for pro bono legal assistance through Access to Justice, the attorney that volunteers for your case will be providing pro bono representation to you. However, you will be responsible for any related legal expenses including filing fees, service fees, copy/postage, mediation, home study/custody evaluation, etc. (if applicable to your particular type of legal matter). Accordingly, the attorney may request that you deposit funds in a trust account to cover the costs of such fees/expenses.

ADDITIONAL LEGAL NEEDS

Applications accepted for legal assistance through Access to Justice, Inc. will be limited to legal assistance for the particular legal issue for which the application was originally accepted. If a new legal problem arises, you may request a new application from Access to Justice, Inc., for the new legal issue or contact another legal services provider in your area. If your original application was accepted for legal assistance through Access to Justice, Inc., it does not guarantee that an additional application will be accepted by Access to Justice, Inc.



111 W. Capitol Avenue, Suite #1
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: (855) 287-3510
Fax: (605) 224-0282
Email:
access.to.justice@sdbar.net

[Client Brochure](#)

REFERRAL INFORMATION

If you received a referral from Dakota Plains Legal Services or East River Legal Services, it means your application for legal assistance has been referred to Access to Justice, Inc.

ABOUT ACCESS TO JUSTICE, INC.

The Access to Justice, Inc., program was set up to help South Dakota's two other legal services programs provide legal assistance to eligible clients, when appropriate, in certain types of cases. Cases that are accepted for participation through Access to Justice are referred to private attorneys who volunteer their time to help clients who can not afford to pay an attorney.

If your case is accepted for participation in the Access to Justice pro bono program, an attorney volunteer will be asked to consider accepting your case. The process can take some time, as Access to Justice staff may need to contact several attorneys before locating an attorney that has the availability to volunteer for your particular case.

Although Access to Justice staff will try their very best to match each accepted case with a volunteer attorney; the Access to Justice program cannot guarantee that an attorney volunteer will be located for every case accepted through the program.

Initial Referral to Attorney Volunteer

If your case is accepted for participation through Access to Justice, Inc., and you are referred to an attorney volunteer, the attorney will interview you at your initial client meeting. Thereafter, the attorney will make a formal decision as to whether or not they can provide you with legal assistance/accept your case. However, if a volunteer attorney decides that your case lacks merit, no further referrals will be made.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CLIENTS

If a volunteer attorney accepts your case, please:

1. Keep all scheduled appointments and arrive on time. Failure to keep scheduled appointments or arriving late to appointments may be cause for your attorney to withdraw from your case.
2. If the attorney requests specific information/documents, please provide the information as soon as possible. If you are unable to get the information requested, please inform your attorney as soon as possible.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CLIENTS

(Continued)

3. Not all attorneys will automatically keep you informed of the progress in your case. If you are concerned about the progress of your case, please ask the attorney to keep you informed.
4. Keep a written record of events that related to your case. Your notes will help you remember important facts later in your case. Your notes will also help summarize your case to your attorney.
5. Try to avoid unnecessary and/or multiple phone calls and/or emails to your attorney. Your attorney has many other clients and cases that also need his/her attention. However, if you have been unable to reach your attorney after repeated attempts, please feel free to contact Access to Justice regarding the situation.
6. If you decide not to pursue your case, you must advise your attorney. The attorney may otherwise proceed and produce a result that you did not want. Valuable time and effort may also be wasted.

