

Orange County Bar Association

P.O. Box 17777 / Irvine, CA 92623-7777 – (949) 440-6700

www.ocbar.org

The Orange County Bar Association has numerous programs to assist you in learning about the justice system. A free reference library of taped legal information is also available for you via your touch-tone telephone.

Orange County Public Defender's Office

14 Civic Center Plaza / Santa Ana, CA 92701-4029 – (714) 834-2144

People who can't afford a lawyer and are accused of a crime may qualify for free help from this office. Only the court can appoint a public defender to represent a defendant in the courtroom. If a public defender is not available in your area, a judge in most cases will appoint a private attorney to represent you at no charge.

Public Law Center

601 Civic Center Drive, West / Santa Ana, CA 92701

(714) 541-1010

Small Claims Advisory

Legal Aid Society of Orange County / 2101 N. Tustin

Santa Ana, CA 92705 – (714) 571-5277 / 1(800) 963-7717

www.legal-aid.com

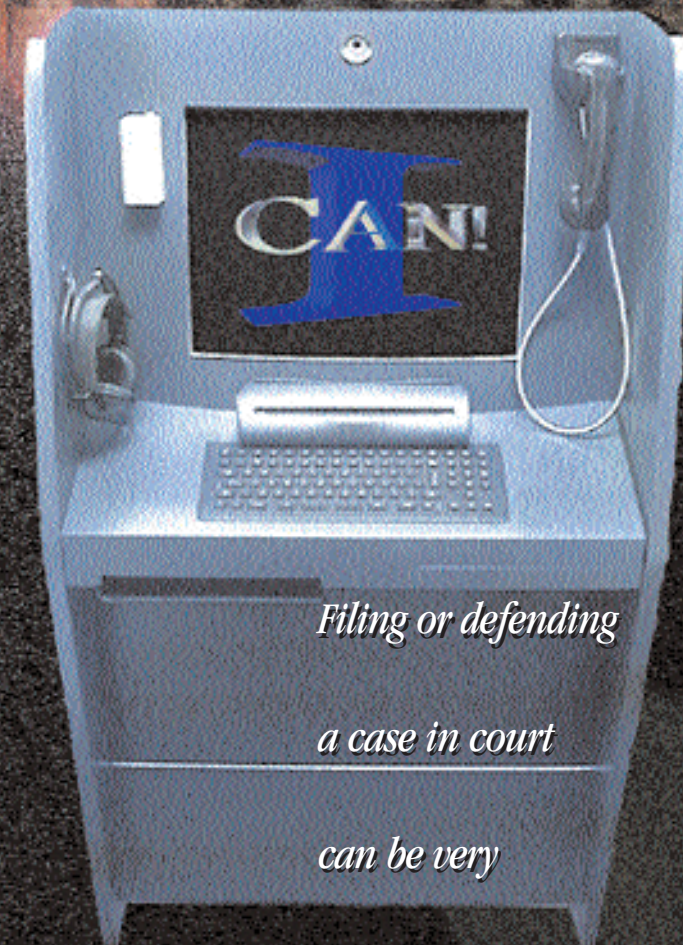
General legal information is provided and the Small Claims Court rules and procedures are explained to anyone with questions regarding lawsuits in Orange County Small Claims Court

I-CAN!

I-CAN! is a kiosk and web-based legal services system designed to provide easy access to vital legal services. It is programmed for individuals with little knowledge of computers. A "video guide" takes the users through a series of tutorial-type questions. Answers are chosen by touching a computer screen and are then "mapped" to the appropriate judicial forms. The program creates properly formatted pleadings; provides court tours; and educates users on the law and the steps needed to pursue their matter

I-CAN! modules are located at many convenient locations which include courthouses, legal aid offices, community centers, women's shelters and libraries. More information is available at www.legal-aid.com

Legal Resources



Filing or defending

a case in court

can be very

complicated...

**Superior Court of California
County of Orange**
Central Justice Center
700 Civic Center Drive, West
Santa Ana, California 92702-2024

**Visit Our Website:
www.occourts.org**

Legal Resources

Filing or defending a case in court can be very complicated. There are many rules and procedures to follow, and the courts differ in how some things are done. Also, many cases require immediate kinds of actions.

Where to Find Legal Help

Timely legal advice can stop small problems from becoming larger ones. If you need legal help, check the referral numbers in this brochure and look in the Yellow Pages of the phone book under “Attorney Referral Services,” “Attorneys,” or “Lawyers.” Some public-interest groups, such as those concerned with civil liberties and housing discrimination, also offer legal guidance.

Free Legal Services

Free legal services for qualified low-income people are available from the National Legal Services Corporation (e.g., Legal Aid Society and Legal Services Foundation). People accused of a crime who cannot afford an attorney may apply for free help from the Public Defender’s office. The courts staff also are a source of procedural information. Each court has a family law facilitator who can provide information on child, spouse, family, and medical support at no charge. Each court also has a Small Claims Advisor Program which provides free help to people involved in small claims matters. Many courts have self-help centers with information and referrals. In addition, law school “clinical” programs sometimes provide free or low-cost legal aid.

A variety of helpful booklets covering such topics as child custody, small claims, writing a will, arrest, and other common legal issues are also available from local bar associations, your county law library, the State Bar of California, and the California Judges Association. The California Courts Self-Help Center website www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp is very informative and will help you find legal assistance, learn about California law, work better with an attorney, and represent yourself in some legal matters.

Crime Victims’ Assistance

Most counties have a local victim center that will help you apply for compensation. Many losses caused by crimes are covered by the State Restitution Fund, including medical, funeral, and burial expenses, loss of income or support, and job retraining. A crime victim must make a claim to the State Restitution Fund within one year after the

date of the crime. There are exceptions and conditions. Check the Victim/Witness Service number in this brochure or call 800-842-8467, toll-free, for referral to the nearest victim center.

California Judges Association

1700 Broadway, 7th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
(510)588-5000

This voluntary organization of state court judges has produced a variety of pamphlets covering court structure, jury duty, appellate courts, civil courts, criminal courts, evidence, fair procedures, juvenile justice, juvenile rights, and small claims court. It also has produced videotapes demonstrating criminal court and juvenile justice procedures.

Department of Consumer Affairs

400 R Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-1254 or (800) 952-5210
www.dca.ca.gov

A free list of consumer educational materials, including a booklet that covers small claims court procedures is available.

More Information

The following is a partial list of local organizations that provide services and information about the Orange County Superior Court and California court system.

Children’s Rights Clinic

Whittier Law School / 3333 Harbor Blvd.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-1501
(714) 444-4141 Ext. 304

Provides civil legal services in matters involving the care or support of minor children. Services are provided to indigent Orange County families dealing with guardianship, post-foster care adoption, family law custody, childhood disability, and special education matters. Most matters are referred to the Clinic through local legal service agencies such as the Legal Aid Society of Orange County or the Public Law Center. Assistance is available in English, Spanish and many other languages.

Dispute Resolution, Drug Court Services & Victim/Witness Services

Community Services Projects, Inc. / 1821 E. Dyer Road, #200
Santa Ana, CA 92705
(949) 250-0488 or 1-800-842-8467
www.cspinc.org

Dispute Resolution Services are available to all persons in Orange County who find themselves in a dispute or a conflict with others. Mediation is a voluntary process. People with a dispute meet with an assigned neutral third party called a mediator who helps them work out a solution to the problem.

Victim/Witness Assistance Program provides needed services for victims and witnesses and encourages their cooperation in case investigations and the offender’s prosecution. Translation services for non-English speaking clients are available. Victim Services include: crisis intervention, emergency assistance, resource and referral assistance, victims of crime claims assistance, and many other services.

Drug Court provides for the rehabilitation of non-violent felony drug offenders. Its goal is to reduce crime and addiction in the community. Participants enroll in the program for a minimum of a year and undergo a regimented program designed to help them overcome their drug use, and work to become productive citizens.

Self Help Center

Orange County Superior Court / 341 The City Drive
Orange, CA 92863
(714) 935-7027
www.occourts.org

Court staff assist unrepresented litigants in getting through court procedures in family law matters involving divorce, restraining orders, child custody, etc. Litigants are provided assistance in completing court forms, and information kiosks are also available that guide users through the process of filling out and filing some legal documents.

Orange County Law Library

515 N. Flower Street, #32
Santa Ana, CA 92703 – (714) 834-3397
The library has a variety of publications and resource directories that cover many aspects of the law.

Legal Aid Society of Orange County

2101 N. Tustin
Santa Ana, CA 92705 (800) 834-5001 or (714) 571-5200
www.legal-aid.com

Free, civil legal services are provided to low-income persons and seniors who live in Orange County, and southeast Los Angeles County.