



MICHIGAN LEGAL HELP

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NEW VAN BUREN COUNTY LEGAL SELF-HELP CENTER NETWORK NOW OPEN

(Paw Paw, MI) Residents of Van Buren County can now get legal help from their local library. Every library in Van Buren County has partnered with the Van Buren County courts to form the **Van Buren County Legal Self-Help Center Network**.

The **Van Buren County Legal Self-Help Center Network** is located in 11 local libraries across Van Buren County. The center is a partnership between the Van Buren District Library, the Paw Paw District Library, the Hartford Public Library, the South Haven Public Library, and the Lawton Public Library, Van Buren County Courts, Michigan Legal Help, and other community partners. The network is the largest county wide network in Michigan. Residents will be able to access whichever center is most convenient for them.

Visitors to the center can access high-speed internet, computers, and printers to use the Michigan Legal Help website in English (MichiganLegalHelp.org) or Spanish (AyudaLegaldeMichigan.org). The Michigan Legal Help website contains free, easy-to-understand information on common legal issues. This includes know-your-rights articles, self-led interviews that help visitors fill out court forms, and step-by-step instructions that help walk visitors through how they need to file and serve their forms, and the steps that follow. The website can also help visitors look for a lawyer in their area and connect with local community services if they need more assistance.

Visitors also have access to navigators who are trained to help visitors find the resources they need. While Navigators cannot give legal advice, they can answer questions about court practices and processes, help visitors locate and complete the court-approved forms available on the website, and find referrals to lawyers and community service providers.

The launch of the **Van Buren County Legal Self Help Center Network** marks the biggest expansion in legal self-help services with more than 50 centers across the state now offering free, high quality legal self-help services to the citizens of Michigan.

The Michigan Legal Help Program is funded by the Michigan State Bar Foundation, the Michigan Supreme Court, and through grants from the Legal Services Corporation.