A LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE CHECKLIST

Lawyer information

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

_____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Appointment

Date: _____

Time: _____

Reminders

✔ Tell the lawyer that you were referred by the Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service.

✔ The first half-hour consultation is only $25.

✔ When you hire a lawyer, ask in advance about the cost of services. When you agree on on a fee, get it in writing on a fee agreement.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE SERVICES LISTED BELOW:

ADR Referral Service

Alternative Dispute Resolution is a means of resolving disputes outside of the courts. Mediation, case evaluation and arbitration services are available.

Boston area: (617) 338-0627
Springfield area: (413) 784-0433
E-mail: adrrs@massbar.org

Dial-A-Lawyer

Call and speak to an attorney, free of charge. First Wednesday of every month **ONLY**.
5:30-7:30 p.m.
(617) 338-0610

Legal Fee Arbitration Board

When your attorney's fee is in dispute, call

Boston area: (617) 338-0552
TTY: (617) 338-0585
E-mail: fab@massbar.org

Law.help

Find free legal information on the MBA Web site www.massbar.org/help.

Speakers Bureau

Attorneys speak to groups or meetings on a variety of legal topics, free of charge

Boston area: (617) 338-0562
TTY: (617) 338-0585
E-mail: speakers@massbar.org

Tel-Law

Basic recorded legal information by phone, 24 hours a day.
(617) 338-0669

MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION
20 WEST ST. • BOSTON MA 02111-1218
TEL: (617) 338-0500 • FAX: (617) 338-0650
TTY: (617) 338-0585 • www.massbar.org

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LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

FREE REFERRALS TO ATTORNEYS FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION

A PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION

TEL: (617) 654-0400
TOLL FREE: (800) 392-6164
WWW.MASSBAR.ORG

Lawyer Referral Service
... a public service of the Massachusetts Bar Association

What is the LRS?

The Lawyer Referral Service is a public service program of the Massachusetts Bar Association. It is designed to assist you in finding the available resources to help solve your legal problem. There are two steps to this process: first, determining whether you need to see a lawyer, and second, referring you to a lawyer or to an appropriate agency.

How does LRS work?

Call one of the telephone numbers listed below, and your call will be answered by an LRS staff representative. Be prepared to briefly describe your situation so that the staff assistant can determine what kind of help you need. **THE LRS DOES NOT OFFER LEGAL ADVICE.** The representative will refer you to a lawyer, a government agency or social service resource, depending on the nature of your problem.

If the representative determines that you need the help of a lawyer and have the ability to pay one, you will be given the name and phone number of a lawyer. It is your responsibility to contact the lawyer directly. We will take your name and address, but will provide only your name to the lawyer. You will not be called by the lawyer.

Boston area: (617) 654-0400
Toll free in MA: (800) 392-6164
TTY: (617) 338-0585

What does LRS cost?

There is no cost for contacting the LRS. The maximum charge for the first half-hour consultation with the referred lawyer is only $25.

If additional services are required, you may choose to hire the LRS lawyer. It is important to discuss legal fees and other costs with the lawyer up front. We strongly recommend that you and the lawyer sign a written fee agreement, so that there is no question about what service the lawyer will perform, and what those services will cost you.

What if I can't afford the lawyer's fees?

If your family income is within a certain range, the LRS representative will refer you to a lawyer who has agreed to charge less than his or her normal fee. If your income falls below this range, you will be referred to a program in your community that provides legal services and resources free of charge.

Does everyone who calls the LRS need a lawyer?

Many problems seem to be legal problems but, in fact, do not require the service of a lawyer. If the LRS representative determines that you do not need a lawyer, he or she will turn to our comprehensive resource directory, which contains listings of agencies and organizations that may be able to assist you in solving your problem.

What kinds of lawyers are listed with the LRS?

LRS lawyers are located in almost every town in the state, and come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some are members of law firms, some have their own law practices. Whenever possible, you will be referred to a lawyer in your town or a neighboring town.

To belong to the LRS, lawyers must submit applications every year, stating that they:

- are competent and either experienced or trained in the areas of law that they list
- have professional liability insurance
- agree to submit any fee dispute that might arise to the MBA Legal Fee Arbitration Board
- are in good standing with the Board of Bar Overseers
- will abide by a comprehensive Statement of Standards and Rules developed by the MBA Lawyer Referral Service Committee

What kinds of cases do LRS lawyers handle?

LRS lawyers handle many different kinds of cases. The LRS lists 26 major categories of law, such as family, bankruptcy, consumer protection, landlord/tenant and real estate law. A lawyer may handle one or more of the categories within this broad range.