

I Am Requesting A Volunteer Divorce Attorney

To begin the process to determine if you are eligible for a volunteer attorney to help with your divorce case, you **must:**

1. Complete the form on the reverse side and mail to the below address (YOU MUST PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED); and
2. Provide proof of income for ALL members of your household (except for your spouse).

**YOUR REQUEST FOR A
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY WILL
NOT BE CONSIDERED IF NO
INCOME VERIFICATION IS
PROVIDED.**

Mail form to:
ECBA Volunteer
Lawyers Project
438 Main St., 7th Floor
Buffalo NY, 14202

(716) 847-0662

About VLP

The Volunteer Lawyers Project was established in 1982 by the Bar Association of Erie County and Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc. We coordinate pro bono representation for Erie County's low income residents and not-for-profit organizations.

VLP'S Mission

VLP's dual mission is to:

- 1) provide quality free civil legal services for low income people and smaller not for profit groups; and
- 2) to effectively involve volunteers in the delivery of those services.

Who is Eligible?

Eligible clientele must meet federally established income guidelines. All clients and cases will be screened for eligibility and merit. Eligibility is based upon total income and benefits received by the household, but not including the spouse.



"Speaking for those who are not heard"

Erie County Bar Association
Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.

PRO BONO DIVORCE

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7th Floor
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www.ecbavlp.com

WE CAN HELP

The Process:

1. Client (you) sends in the information form (right panel) and household income verification.
2. Within **1 week** of receiving the client's information, VLP will call the client to review the information and discuss the amount of expenses involved.
3. Once the expense deposit is received, an appointment is made and the client comes to VLP for screening.
4. If the client is found to be eligible for a volunteer divorce attorney, the client is placed on a waiting list (note: the wait time for a divorce attorney can be up to 9 months).
5. Once a volunteer attorney accepts the case, the client will be assigned an attorney to provide representation for their divorce case.

Notes:

- There is a waiting list to receive a volunteer divorce attorney
- Clients must meet household income (household income *does not* include your spouse) eligibility criteria in order to receive services.
- An appointment **does not guarantee** you will get a volunteer divorce attorney.
- There is not a charge for our legal services, but you may still have to pay personal service and transcript fees.
- Divorce defendants are given first priority for a volunteer attorney.

What Do I Do Once I Get An Appointment?

- Gather all necessary paperwork. Make sure you have copies for the income of ALL members in your household.
- If there are children involved in the marriage and you have been to court for custody, visitation, or child support, make sure you have copies of any/all final orders (if the order is from Erie County Family Court, you can get a **free** copy by visiting the 4th floor records room of Erie County Family Court).

What Do I Do If My Spouse Filed For Divorce Against Me?

If you were served a **divorce summons**, call VLP immediately at **(716) 847-0662**, and follow the phone prompts. When leaving a message, please state when you received the summons, what county the case is in, and the index number.

I Am Requesting a Volunteer Divorce Attorney:

Provide the following information

YOUR INFORMATION

My full name: _____

My phone number: _____

My address: _____

My social security number: _____

My birthdate: _____

SPOUSE'S INFORMATION

My spouse's full name: _____

My spouse's address: _____

My spouse's social security number: _____

My spouse's birthdate is: _____

I HAVE ENCLOSED

- Information sheet (this sheet)
- Copies of proof of household income:
 - Paystubs for anyone employed in your household (other than your spouse)
 - Statements for any public benefits I receive (i.e. SNAP, Social Security)
 - Any additional income and benefits for ANY household member other than your spouse.

Applications for a volunteer divorce attorney will not be considered if no income verification is provided.