

# Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library

## Legal Research and Advice Policy – Public Patrons

The Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library and its employees welcome the opportunity to assist you in your legal research, but cannot conduct research for you, give legal advice or do anything which might constitute the unauthorized practice of law. The law librarians are professional researchers not attorneys, and information provided by the staff is not a substitute for legal advice. If you need legal advice, we recommend you contact a licensed attorney.

### Law Library Staff Can:

- Explain how to use legal resources, and answer questions regarding the Library and its collection
  - Do you have any books on ....?
  - How do find things in Ohio Jurisprudence?
- Help you locate a particular statute or case when you have a specific reference or citation
  - I need the case Ressler v. Ressler from the Supreme Court of Ohio.
  - Can you give me ORC 2929.01 as it appeared in 1971?
- Assist in locating relevant printed or online legal resources within the library such as, the public access versions of LexisNexis and Westlaw, HeinOnline, statutes, cases, court rules, legal encyclopedias, form books, and treatises
  - How can I search for law review articles on a particular subject?
  - Where are the form books concerning corporations?
- Refer you to appropriate agencies or suggest lawyer referral resources
  - Can you give me the phone number for the Attorney General's Office?
  - I can't afford an attorney, is there someplace I can contact?
- E-mail, photocopy and mail, or fax, limited print resources when requested by specific citation, for a nominal fee, restricted by copyright law

### Law Library Staff Cannot:

- Perform research on behalf of a patron in response to a legal question or in response to a request for legal advice
  - Should I create a trust for my family?
  - How can I create a Limited Liability Company?
- Interpret the meaning of statutes, cases or regulations, or how it might impact a particular situation or case

- What does this statute mean?
  - If I evict a tenant, what can he sue me for?
- Offer advice on any legal procedure, court rule, or jurisdictional question
    - How can I start a class action?
    - Where would be a good place to file a case?
- Choose statutes, cases or regulations for your situation
    - My ex wants more child support, are there cases out there to support my side of the story?
    - Somebody's been squatting on some vacant land I own; is there a statute I can use to evict them?
- Choose specific forms, language to use in forms, or assist in filling out any form
    - Can you help me with this form? I don't know any of those big legal words.
- Review any document drafted by a patron
    - Can you look this form over? I don't want to make any mistakes.
- Tell you how to file a document, what document to file, or how to proceed with court actions
    - How in the world do I get my document filed in Warren County?
    - Somebody sued me, what do I do now?
- Give opinions on legal matters, or advice concerning any legal rights or liabilities
    - What are my odds if I take this to court?
    - I want to pursue a shared parenting agreement. Can I do that even if I have a few misdemeanors?
- Read textual material (including, but not limited to, definitions, laws, cases, or rules) over the phone
  - Recommend a specific attorney
  - Perform any other action that could, in the opinion of the staff member, be construed as providing legal advice