

THE NEVADA COURT PROCESS

Understanding and using the court system can be overwhelming. There are laws, rules, forms, and terms (some of them in Latin!) to learn and adhere to. Therefore, to better understand a court's purpose, procedures and jurisdictions, consider the following:

Is my issue Civil or Criminal?

- ✓ Lawsuit
- ✓ Divorce
- ✓ Misdemeanor
- ✓ Felony



Which laws, codes, or statutes govern my issue?

- ✓ United States Code (**Federal**)
- ✓ Nevada Revised Statutes (**NRS**)
- ✓ Las Vegas Municipal Code
- ✓ Clark County Code

What am I trying to do?

- ✓ Appeal
- ✓ Probate
- ✓ Relocate Child from State
- ✓ Title to Abandoned Vehicle

Which court handles my issue?

- ✓ District Court
- ✓ Justice Court
- ✓ Municipal Court
- ✓ Supreme Court

Where are the courts located?

- ✓ Regional Justice Center
- ✓ Family Courts and Services
- ✓ Las Vegas Justice Court
- ✓ Supreme Court of Nevada

You will need to determine, based on your situation, which court is appropriate for your needs. The Clark County Law Library has information and resources to help you research the court process for your issue.

Online/Database Resources:

- Information about each court can be found on their respective websites. Information about specific courts is provided in Pathfinder 20 online at: www.ClarkCountyNV.Gov/LawLibrary

Procedural Resources:

- **Court Rules** provide rules of procedure for various Nevada courts. The Rules of Court govern issues including; but not limited to, court styling, how days are calculated and appellate procedure. The Court Rules of Nevada are available on the Internet at: www.leg.state.nv.us/CourtRules/index.html
- **Codes/Statutes** help you determine whether a law has been broken, which court to use, how you can proceed, and how much time you have to act. You may need to research Federal, State, County, or City laws, which are available on our Nevada Legal Research page at: www.ClarkCountyNV.Gov/LawLibrary
- The **Nevada Civil Practice Manual** covers a variety of civil practice issues and may provide additional information about laws, forms, and procedures.

Reference Resources:

- **Civil and Criminal Flow Charts** display the basic court progression for Civil and Criminal cases. The Civil Case Track and the Criminal Justice Flow Chart can be found in Pathfinder 21 and Pathfinder 22.
- **Legal Dictionaries/Encyclopedias** provide specific legal information and definitions of terms commonly used during the court process.

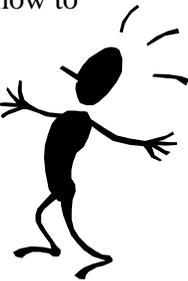
- **Self-Help Books** are written for non-attorneys who find themselves involved in legal matters. These books provide basic information that will allow you to make sense of more specific research. A list of Self-Help books by topic can be found in Pathfinder 28.

Additional Resources:

- **Family Law Self-Help Center** is provided through Clark County and individual local lawyers who donate their services for domestic issues. Their "Ask a Lawyer" program provides a free 15-minute consultation with a lawyer. Legal forms and information are available online at: www.clarkcountycourts.us/shc/index.htm
- **Legal Assistance** is provided through a variety of agencies that offer their services to specific groups or work with specific issues. The Clark County Law Library is happy to refer you to not-for-profit agencies offering legal assistance. This information is available in Pathfinder 24.

This pathfinder provides you with resources to aid you in your research. This list is not exclusive. Only you can decide if additional research and materials are needed. You can search the library catalog for relevant titles at: www.ClarkCountyNV.Gov/LawLibrary or ask the library staff to suggest other materials and resources. However, the staff cannot interpret the information for you or tell you how to proceed.

"Ignorance of the law is no excuse in any country. If it were, the laws would lose their effect, because it can always be pretended." Thomas Jefferson, 1787



***If you are looking for legal advice, you can call the State Bar of Nevada Lawyer Referral Service at 702/382-0504.**