



QLaw Foundation of Washington

Who We Are and What We Do

This resource is for LGBTQ+ community members and the general public needing the support of QLaw Foundation of Washington.

About QLaw Foundation

QLaw Foundation of Washington promotes the dignity and respect of LGBTQ+ Washingtonians within the legal system through advocacy, education, and legal assistance. We do this through our LGBTQ+ Legal Clinic, Family Matters Legal Clinic, and community legal resources.

We believe in the resilience and problem-solving power of LGBTQ+ communities. We believe that our communities are entitled to fairness when we must engage with the legal system, and to affirming and knowledgeable representation when we need a lawyer.

What QLaw Foundation CAN do:

- Provide a free consultation with a volunteer attorney through our LGBTQ+ Legal Clinic
 - Available throughout Washington
 - Provided in either English or Spanish
 - Determine whether a client has a legal problem
 - Suggest possible options
 - Provide appropriate referrals for the situation
- Provide direct representation or support through our Family Matters Legal Clinic
 - Limited to agreed adoptions (where all adults consent to the adoption), de facto parentage petitions, or confirmations of parentage
 - If you are not sure what you need, start with an appointment at the LGBTQ+ Legal Clinic

What QLaw Foundation CAN'T do:

- Our LGBTQ+ Legal Clinic **cannot:**
 - Provide direct court representation
 - Give legal advice over the phone or by e-mail – these forms of communication are confidential, but DO NOT create an attorney-client relationship
 - Give advice on criminal legal issues
- Our Family Matters Legal Clinic **cannot:**
 - Represent families adopting out of foster care/dependency
 - Represent parents with parenting plan, child support, or other disputes
 - Represent families where adoption or legal parental rights are contested (meaning a person with parental rights objects)

If you have general legal support needs, you can:

- **Schedule a LGBTQ+ Legal Clinic Consultation** (<https://calendly.com/lgbtq-clinic/legal-consultation-30-minutes>)
 - English - Free 30-minute consultation with a volunteer attorney on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month
 - Spanish - Free 60-minute consultation with a volunteer attorney on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month
- **Email** clinic@qlawfoundation.org if a phone consultation is not a good option for you
- **Call** (206)-235-7235 and **leave a message** (preferably with contact information) if no one answers
 - Someone will follow up in 2-3 business days

Expectations:

What Happens When You Call the LGBTQ+ Legal Clinic Intake Line

During Business Hours

- A volunteer will ask for basic information about your legal issue
- The volunteer will help you schedule an appointment for the next available LGBTQ+ legal clinic appointment if you would like to speak to an attorney
- Note that folks running the intake line **are not** attorneys, meaning that they cannot give legal advice, nor should there be an expectation to get on-the-spot legal assistance by calling the intake line.

After Business Hours

- Please leave a message including call-back information, if possible
- QLaw will follow up in 2-3 business days

What Happens When You Email the LGBTQ+ Clinic

- QLaw will follow up on your request in 2-3 business days

What Happens After Making an Appointment Online

- A confirmation email with more details will be sent to the email address that you provide

What Happens at an Appointment with the LGBTQ+ Legal Clinic

- A volunteer attorney will speak with you about your issue
- The attorney will suggest possible options or next steps and provide appropriate referrals
- You can make more than one appointment if needed

If you want to reach the Family Matters Legal Clinic for adoptions/parentage support, you can:

- **Watch** our community information video at (<https://vimeo.com/421739112>)
- **Register** online at (<https://www qlawfoundation.org/family-matters-legal-clinic.html>)
- **Expect** that you will receive a response within 14 days, but that your legal adoption/parentage process may take 4-6 months
- **Call or email** any questions to 206-235-7235 or info@qlawfoundation.org

Additional Legal Resources

Disclosing your private issues to an unknown individual can be uncomfortable. QLaw cannot vouch for the LGBTQ+ competency of these Volunteer Lawyer Programs.

Volunteer Lawyer Programs

Volunteer Lawyer Programs provide free civil legal aid to low-income residents by relying upon the volunteer services of local attorneys and working in partnership with their local County Bar Association. Assistance may range from advice and consultation to self-help forms and legal referrals. They can be found in 16 counties.

The CLEAR (Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral) Hotline is a toll-free legal hotline for people with low incomes. You can apply online through Northwest Justice Project or call them.

Outside King County?

Call **1-888-201-1014**, weekdays between 9:15 am - 12:15 pm.

Inside King County?

Call **2-1-1**, weekdays between 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. 2 1 1 will identify and refer you to the appropriate legal aid provider.

Please note that call volumes for the CLEAR Line tend to be very high. We recommend you call at the very beginning of the shift, and be prepared to call many times before you are able to get through. More information is available here:

<https://nwjustice.org/clear-hotline>

Expectations:

What Happens When You Call the CLEAR Intake Line

During Business Hours

- A volunteer will collect some information from you to determine if you are eligible for services
- If you are eligible to speak with a lawyer or paralegal, they will ask you detailed questions about your problems. Please have documents concerning your problem and important information when you call.

After Business Hours

- Automated voice states their operating hours: weekdays, 9:15a - 12:15pm and informs you of self-help legal information (WashingtonLawHelp.org) and the CLEAR*Online Application (<https://nwjustice.org/apply-online>)
- Call back during operating hours

What Happens After Completing the CLEAR/NJP Online Application

- If you are eligible and have an issue with eviction, debt, government benefits, or special education, NJP will call you or you may be referred.
- If you are eligible with a different issue, you may be asked to call the CLEAR hotline
- If you are not eligible, you may be referred to another reduced cost legal service or to a lawyer referral service.

Legal Advocacy Organizations

Legal advocacy organizations provide free civil legal aid to marginalized communities and low-income residents. They work to protect our civil liberties through public policy change. *Please note that several of these organizations do not offer direct legal representation or have very limited services. Please review organization websites prior to seeking representation from them.*

QLaw Foundation of Washington (qlawfoundation.org)

Promoting the dignity and respect of LGBTQ+ Washingtonians within the legal system through advocacy, education, and legal assistance

Provides: brief legal services, full representation for legal parentage orders, referrals, legal rights education

Lavender Rights Project (<https://www.lavenderrightsproject.org>)

Advancing a more just and equitable society by providing low-cost civil legal services and community programming centered in values of social justice for trans and queer low-income people and other marginalized communities

Provides: brief legal services, full representation, legal rights education, referrals

Legal Voice (<https://www.legalvoice.org/>)

Pursuing justice for all women and LGBTQ people in the Northwest, through groundbreaking litigation, legislative advocacy, and legal rights education

Provides: impact litigation, legal rights education, legislative advocacy

Disability Rights Washington (<https://www.disabilityrightswa.org/>)

Advancing the dignity, equality, and self-determination of people with disabilities, providing free services to people with disabilities

Provides: brief legal services, full representation, impact litigation, legislative advocacy, legal rights education

Northwest Justice Project (nwjustice.org)

Securing justice through high quality legal advocacy that promotes the long-term well-being of low-income individuals, families, and communities

Provides: brief legal services, full representation, legal rights education, legal resource website, referrals

Sexual Violence Law Center (<http://www.svlawcenter.org/>)

Providing holistic, trauma-informed legal assistance to victims of sexual violence in a wide variety of legal matters

Provides: legal representation, consulting, training, resource and Referrals, and legal advocacy