

I NEED A LAWYER--HOW DO I FIND ONE?

How do you find a lawyer who will be able to help you through your divorce? Do you want the most aggressive lawyer you can find or one you feel comfortable with or someone who knows how to use mediation and help people reach an agreement? It is a good idea to ask friends who have gone through a divorce what they liked or did not like about their lawyer. You may also want to visit Family Court and watch lawyers in the courtroom.

Most cases end with an agreement between the spouses so it is important to have a lawyer who will help you understand the issues and explain how your decisions will affect you and your children.

You do not have to hire the first lawyer you talk to. Most lawyers do not charge for the initial interview. Be sure to ask about fees and when payments must be made.

Look for a lawyer who has experience in family matters and who takes the time to find out what is important to you. If there are children, you want a lawyer who understands the need for a continuing relationship between the parents while the children are growing up.

Vermont Legal Aid provides legal assistance to many low income, elderly and disabled families. Call them at **1-800-889-2047** for more information.

You can find information about family law and how to find an attorney at www.vtlawhelp.org.

The Vermont Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service (**1-800-639-7036**) can give you the names of lawyers in your area who handle divorce matters.

Many lawyers will help you by counseling you and providing information and advice while you represent yourself.

Take advantage of the information available at the court, on the web, and at your local library.

- Be sure to familiarize yourself with all the information available to you.
- You can learn more from the court's website at www.vermontjudiciary.org and from www.vtlawhelp.org

**You can obtain helpful information, as well as court forms at:
www.VermontJudiciary.org.**