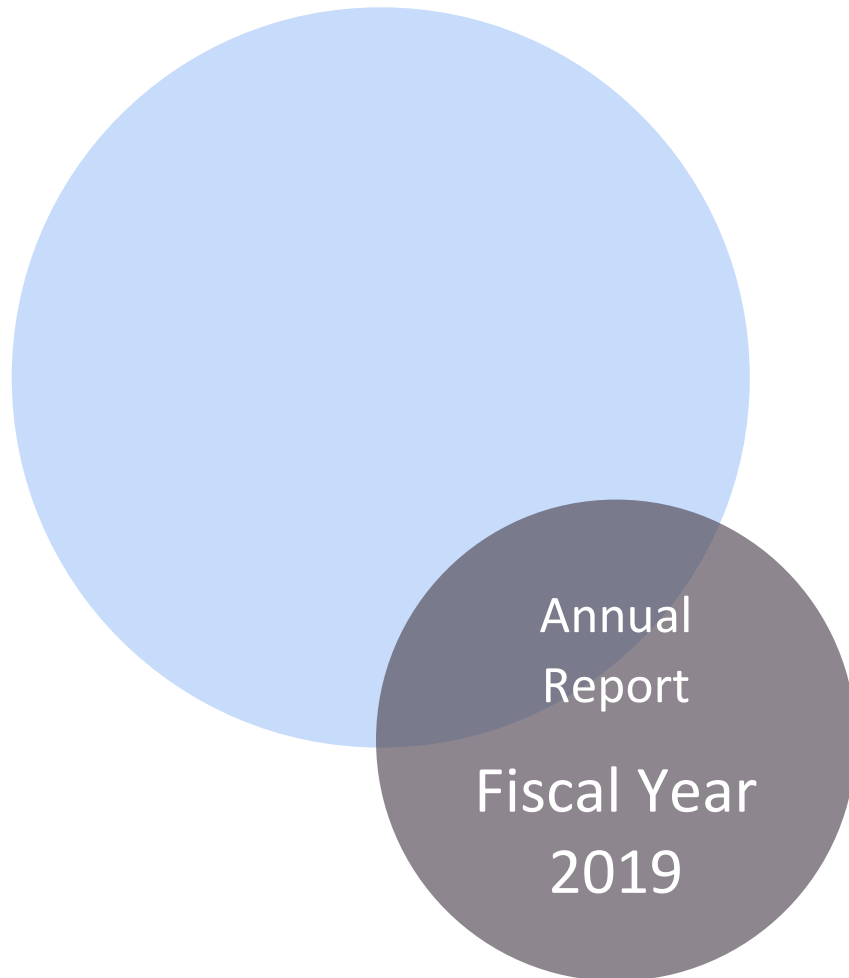

Resources for **Self-Represented Litigants** in the Maryland Courts



Access to Justice – Administrative Office of the Courts

Conference of Maryland Circuit Court Law Library Directors

Juvenile and Family Services – Administrative Office of the Courts

Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library



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Introduction

In recent years, Maryland has experienced consistent, steady growth in the number of litigants who use the Maryland courts without counsel. Litigants often go without representation in family matters including divorce and child custody, as well as landlord and tenant, consumer debt collection, and domestic violence matters.

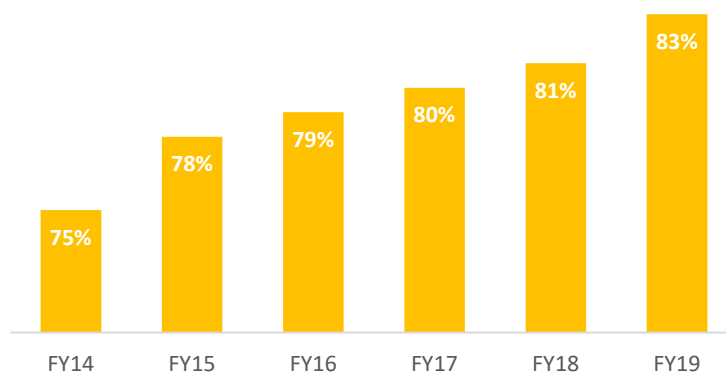


Figure 1. Domestic Cases - One or More Unrepresented Litigants at Any Stage of the Case

To help accomplish its mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all, the **Maryland Judiciary** invests significant resources in programs and services to aid self-represented litigants. Recognizing that there is no solution that meets the needs of all, the Judiciary aims to provide a spectrum of resources including:

Legal information via online videos, webinars, law libraries, form finders, tip sheets, and the Maryland Law Help app;

Legal advice via Maryland court self-help centers;

Legal representation via day-of-court representation programs and referrals to justice partners.

These resources aim to meet the varied needs of self-represented Marylanders, ranging from basic substantive and procedural information to legal advice and even representation.

Self-Help Centers

The Maryland Judiciary made significant improvements to the statewide network of self-help centers in Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19).

Remote Services – The Maryland Courts Self-Help Center (MCSHC). Self-represented litigants may get help remotely via phone, live chat, videoconferencing, and email. Attorney staff assist with all civil case types including housing and foreclosure matters, family law, consumer, domestic violence, and expungement. The MCSHC is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. The MCSHC serves all, regardless of income. In FY19, the MCSHC was staffed by attorneys and support staff employed by the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance, LLC (MCLA), a wholly owned subsidiary of Maryland Legal Aid.

Walk-In Self-Help Centers. The Maryland Judiciary supports walk-in self-help centers that serve litigants with their civil legal needs. In FY19, the Judiciary added new walk-in self-help centers in Frederick and Cambridge.

District Court Self-Help Resource Centers (DCSHRCs) help in civil District Court matters, including landlord and tenant, small claims, expungement, and domestic violence. In FY19, the DCSHRCs were operated via a contract with MCLA. A DCSHRC opened in the District Court in Dorchester County in October 2018, serving litigants on Fridays, the court's civil day.

Family Law Self-Help Centers (FLSHCs) provide aid to self-represented litigants in family law matters throughout Maryland. FLSHCs are staffed by a combination of contractual providers, pro bono attorneys, and court employees. FLSHCs are funded via grants from the Administrative Office of the Court's Juvenile and Family Services.

Frederick. A new self-help center opened in Frederick in July 2019, serving litigants with both District and circuit court case types. The Frederick center provides help with housing and foreclosure matters, family law, consumer, domestic violence, expungement, and more. It is staffed by attorneys employed by MCLA, together with a contractual family law provider, who is funded by a JFS grant.

Law Libraries

Maryland's network of court law libraries continues to provide access to legal information, offer educational opportunities, and operate programs that connect the public with legal resources. The **Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors (CMCLLD)** brings together directors of the eight staffed libraries and the Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library to discuss advancing access to justice through education and provision of legal information. Members also exchange ideas on law library operations and discuss programming. Maryland's staffed law libraries are located in:

Anne Arundel County

Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County

Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

Baltimore City

Baltimore County

Carroll County

Charles County

Howard County

Montgomery County

Prince George's County

The **People's Law Library (PLL)** is a legal information and self-help website managed by the Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library. PLL prioritizes content that closely relates to civil case types most frequently handled in Maryland state courts by self-represented parties. Articles are generated by legal services organizations, pro bono attorneys, and the academic community.

Day-of-Court Programs

Day-of-Court Programs. In FY19, the Administrative Office of the Courts made grants to nonprofit legal service providers to enhance the public's access to legal representation in civil case types. Programs include:

Limited Scope Representation. These programs engage members of the bar through pro bono or reduced-fee services. Litigants without counsel are provided access to lawyers for a discrete task or limited scope, as defined by the Maryland Rules.

Volunteer Lawyer of the Day. Legal service providers manage programs which provide access to a pro bono lawyer on the day of court for civil case types including consumer and rent court matters. In FY19, programs operated in Baltimore City and in Prince George's County.

Other Resources

Videos. In FY15, the Judiciary began offering videos on legal topics that are relevant to litigants without counsel. Each video runs between 2 and 10 minutes and can be accessed on mdcourts.gov/videos as well as on the Judiciary's YouTube channel.

In FY19, the video library increased by 13, growing to nearly 50 titles. Each video is closed captioned in English and Spanish and includes a tip sheet, English and Spanish transcripts, forms, and other resources associated with each topic.

Maryland Law Help App. Launched in FY16, the Maryland Law Help App aggregates web-based resources from mdcourts.gov into one place. Litigants may click to chat with a lawyer at the MCSHC, review the Maryland Code and Rules, or watch a video from the video library. The app is available to users, at no cost, via the Apple Store and Google Play.

Webinars. Taught by attorneys at the MCSHC, webinars provide information on substantive and procedural matters that affect self-represented litigants. In FY19, a new topic launched on child custody. Webinars are offered live on the last Wednesday of each month. On-demand titles include post-judgment collection, small claims, and rent court for landlords and tenants.

CourtTV. CourtTV streams real-time legal information and court news on TV monitors located in court locations throughout Maryland. Content is housed on a server located in Annapolis and may be modified instantaneously to deliver timely and interesting content that is relevant to court users. In FY19, staff worked to link monitors that were previously installed to the Judiciary's data center servers. There are currently 62 monitors in Baltimore City and all Maryland counties.

Document Assembly. In FY19, the Judiciary began work on developing document assembly interviews that use plain-language questions to help litigants complete court forms. Interviews are developed, reviewed, and vetted by a small work group of the Judiciary's Forms Subcommittee. The first interviews are expected to launch in FY20.

Form Finders. Forms are an easy-to-use resource for individuals who need to file papers without the benefit of a lawyer. Web-based form finder tools help individuals identify which forms they need to file.

The **Family Law Form Finder** assists individuals who are unsure about which form they need to file in domestic cases. Users are prompted to answer a series of plain-language questions about their situation. The form finder covers divorce, custody, visitation, child support, alimony, name change, and contempt. In FY19, there were 24,261 hits on the Family Law Form Finder.

The **District Court Form Finder** helps users identify which District Court form they need. It covers landlord and tenant matters, return of property (replevin and detinue), peace and protective orders, and small claims. In FY19, there were 8,535 hits on the District Court Form Finder.

Self-Help Centers

Remote Services Maryland Courts Self-Help Center

Maryland’s remote services center, the Maryland Courts Self-Help Center (MCSHC), increases access to justice by serving large numbers of litigants without counsel via phone, live chat, videoconference, and email.

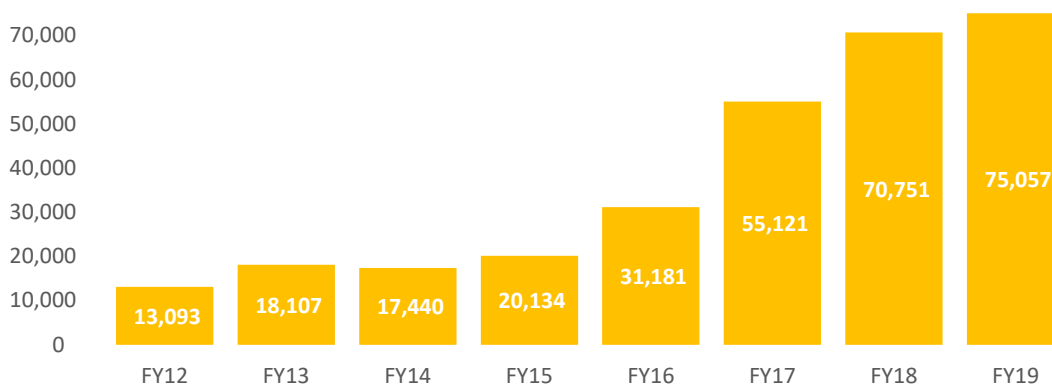


Figure 2. MCSHC - Total Volume by Fiscal Year

Staff provide legal advice and information in all civil matters from housing and foreclosure to family law, consumer debt collection, and expungement. There is significant demand for help with family law matters, including divorce, custody, guardianship, child support, and domestic violence. Other high demand areas include District Court matters, such as landlord and tenant and small and large claims, which encompasses both private disputes as well as consumer debt collection matters.

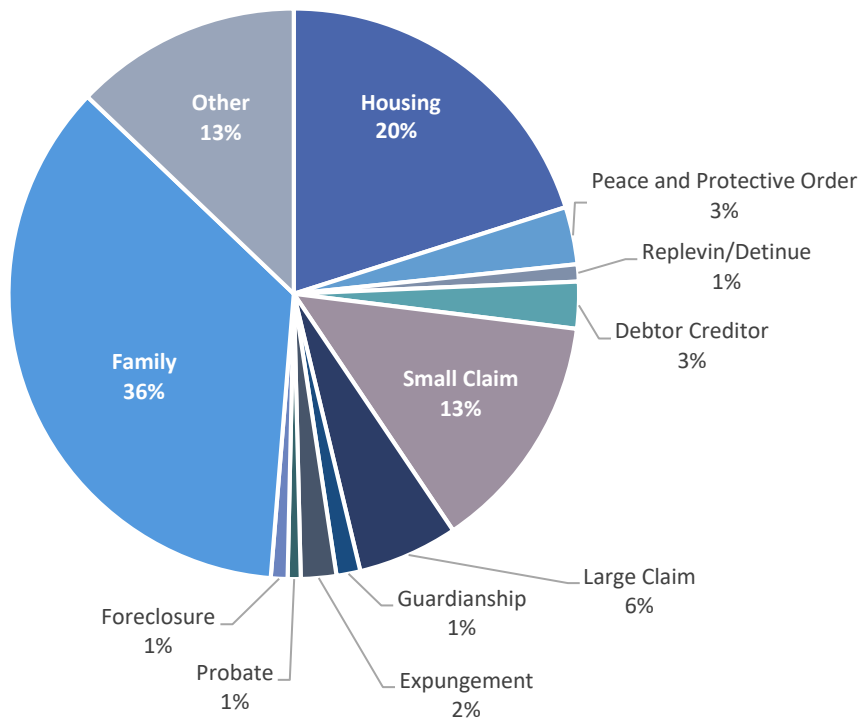


Figure 3. MCSHC - Phone and Chat - Case Types - FY19

Program staff continue to identify areas in which to improve accessibility for self-represented litigants. The MCSHC is open for extended hours, from 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday - Friday. Demand in the evening hours continues to climb.

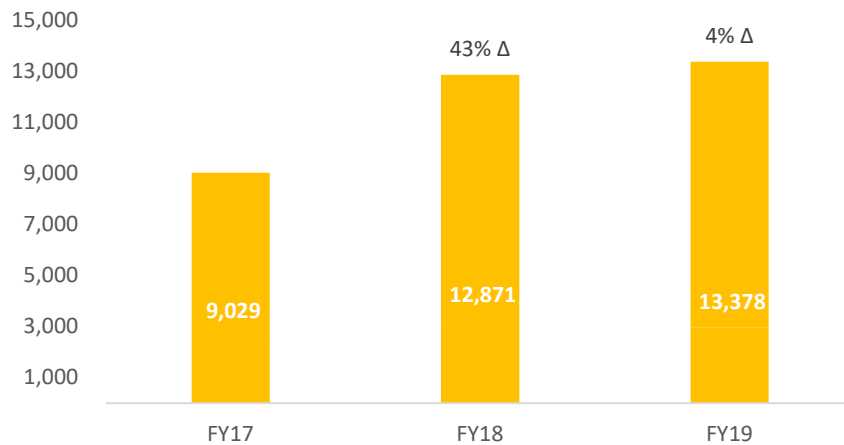


Figure 4. MCSHC - Evening Volume - FY17 - FY19

Remote services reach litigants from all 24 Maryland jurisdictions. The highest demand for phone and chat service comes from Prince George's County.

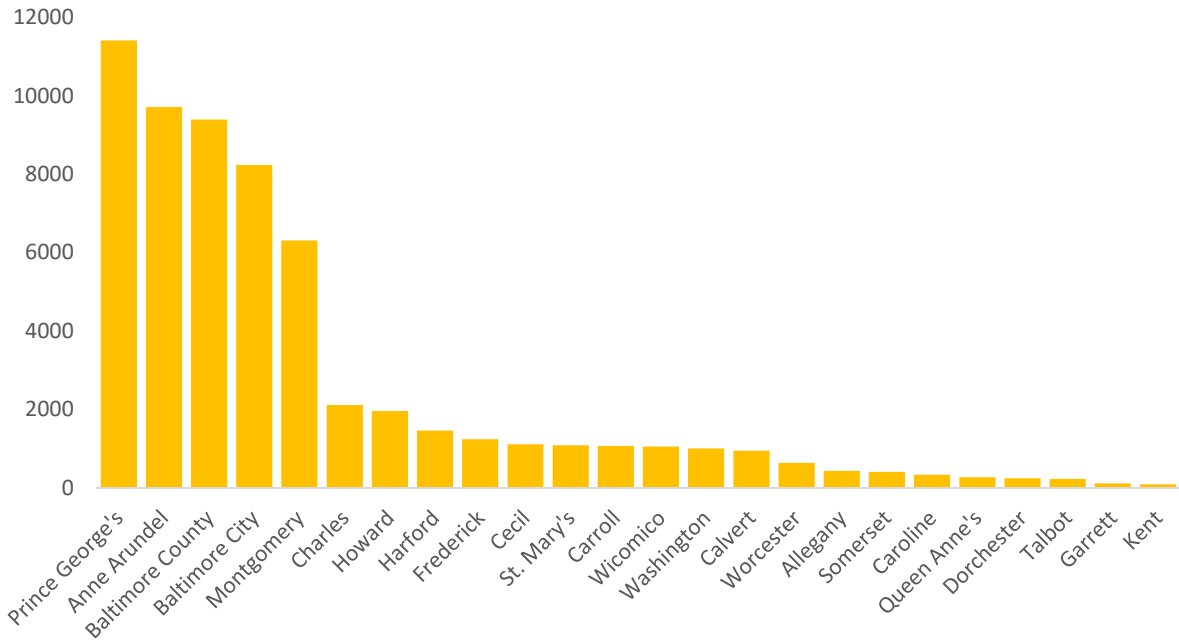


Figure 5. MCSHC - Phone and Chat - County - FY19

While the MCSHC serves all litigants without counsel, regardless of income, most (78%) litigants reported an annual household income below Maryland median income, which was \$83,242 in 2018. See 2018 Census report <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/09/us-median-household-income-up-in-2018-from-2017.html>.

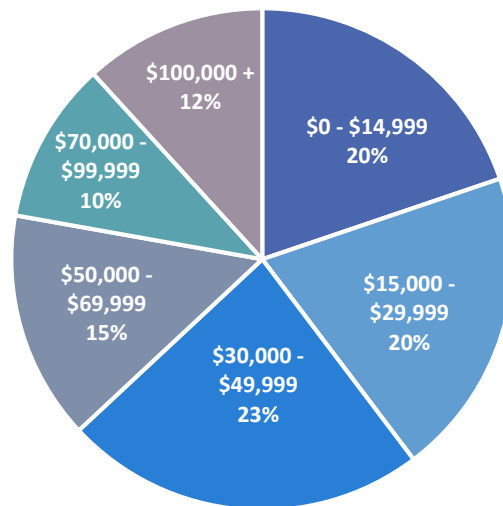


Figure 6. MCSHC - Phone and Chat - Annual Household Income - FY19

A family of four qualified for free legal services under the Maryland Legal Services Corporation's (MLSC) income eligibility guidelines if their household reported earning \$55,839 or less in FY19.

See MLSC Guidelines www.mlsc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2019-MLSC-Income-Guidelines-Final.pdf. More than 63% of litigants served by the MCSHC in FY19 reported an annual household income of \$49,999 or less.

Most MCSHC users are women between the ages of 30 and 49.

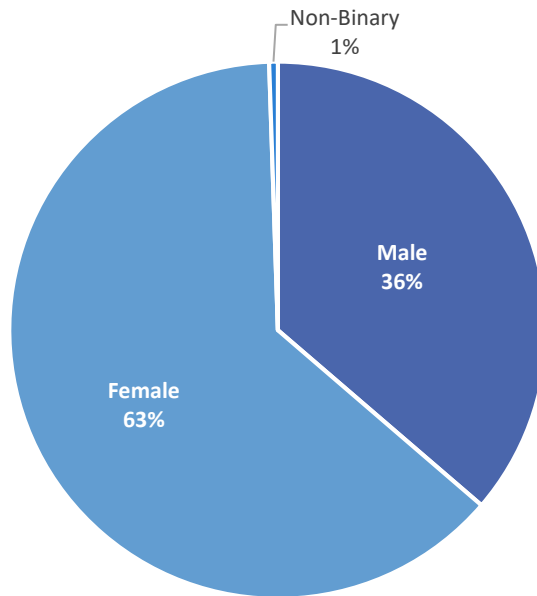


Figure 7. MCSHC - Gender - Phone and Chat - FY19

Chat users tend to be younger than litigants who access MCSHC services via telephone. In FY19, 37% of phone users reported that they were over 50 compared to 23% of chat users who reported that they were over 50.

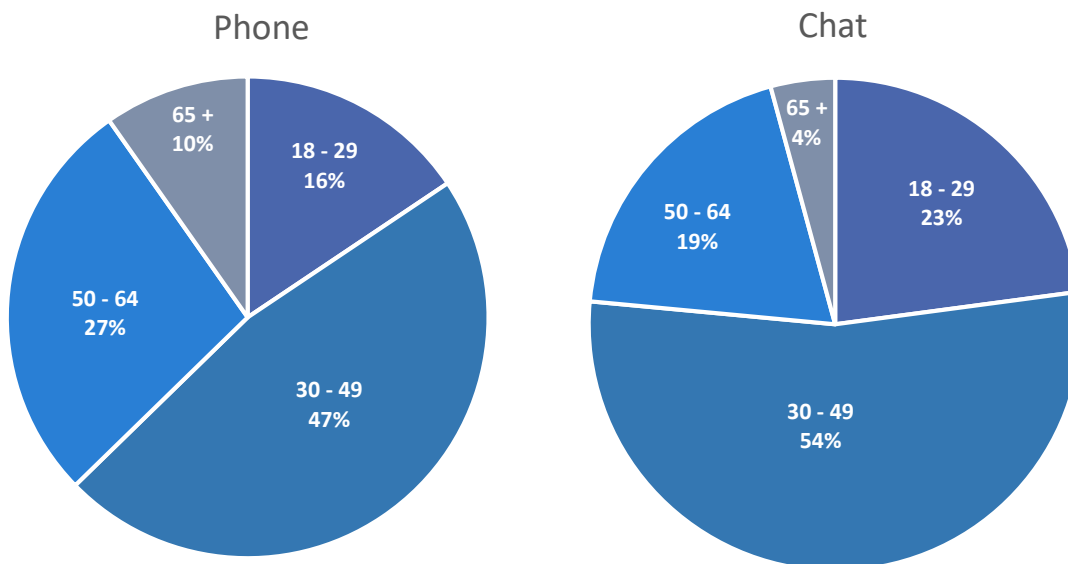


Figure 8. MCSHC - Age - FY19

Chat users report slightly higher levels of education than phone users: 42% report completing a bachelor's degree or beyond, compared to 34% of phone users. Most MCSHC users speak English.

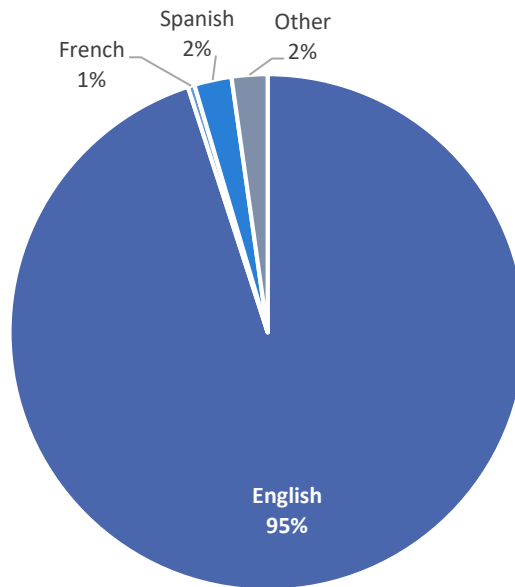


Figure 9. MCSHC - Language - FY19

The Judiciary uses data to determine where to invest outreach and advertising dollars. FY19 advertising campaigns focused on promoting self-help services to litigants with limited English proficiency. Ads appeared in Spanish and Chinese language print and online publications in metropolitan jurisdictions. Attorneys assist litigants with the help of telephonic interpretation.



Figure 10. MCSHC - Advertisement in El Tiempo Latino - FY19

As demand for remote help increases, the Judiciary has leveraged technology to create new programs to serve litigants. In FY19, a pilot videoconferencing program launched in the Circuit Court for Howard County. Operating out of the court’s staffed law library, litigants without counsel may connect “face to face” with a lawyer from the MCSHC.



Figure 11. MCSHC - Videoconferencing in the Law Library at the Circuit Court for Howard County

The program launched in June 2019 and served 24 litigants in the first month. The greatest demand was for family law and guardianship matters. Planning is underway to expand this project to jurisdictions that may not have demand sufficient to support a full-time walk-in self-help center.

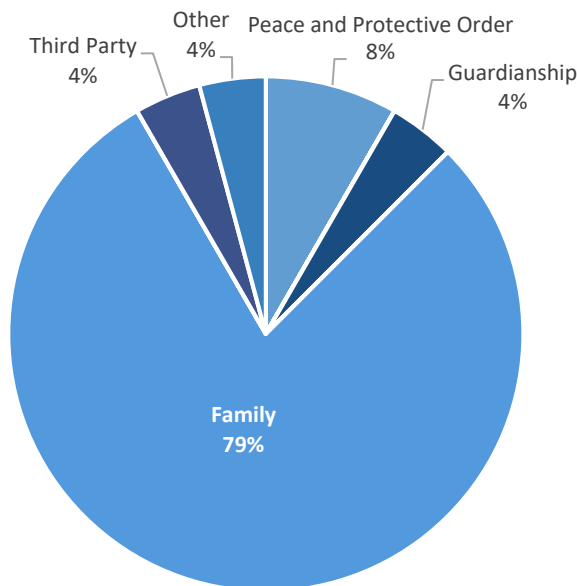


Figure 12. MCSHC - Videoconferencing - Case Types - June 2019

Self-Help Centers

Walk-In Services Family Law Self-Help Centers

Family Law Self-Help Centers (FLSHCs) provide walk-in assistance to self-represented litigants in family law matters throughout Maryland. In FY19, 70% of domestic cases had at least one self-represented litigant at the time of answer. Eighty percent of cases had one or more unrepresented litigants at trial. Baltimore City reports the highest percentage of litigants who are not represented at answer (87%), while Garrett, Talbot, St. Mary’s, and Worcester counties consistently report fewer than 50% of litigants unrepresented at that stage.

With widespread access to remote services, most litigants who seek help at a walk-in family law self-help center need fundamental help with court processes and forms.

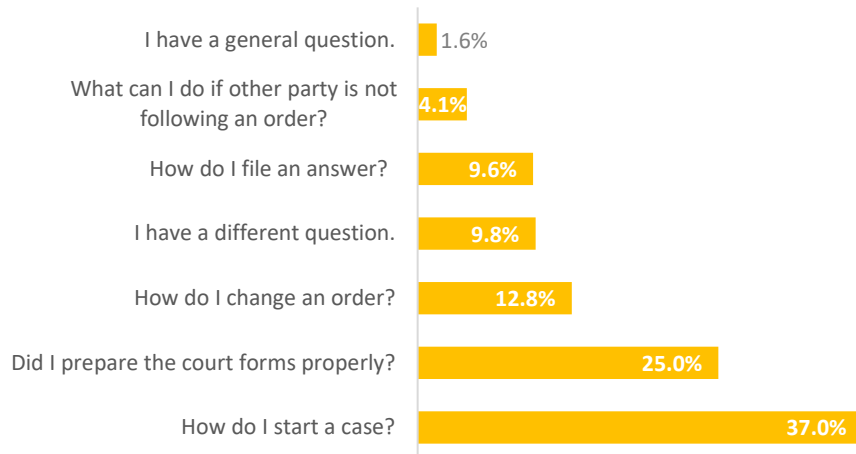


Figure 13. FLSHCs - Primary Question Type - FY19

FLSHCs provide in-depth service to litigants who have little knowledge about how to begin a case and those who need help completing court forms. These two needs — starting a case and completing court forms — are the primary reason 62% of individuals used family law self-help center services in FY19.

Most FLSHCs are staffed by attorneys or paralegals, but others use family support services coordinators to answer questions and provide guidance to self-represented litigants.

FLSHCs assisted litigants with a wide variety of family law issues in FY19. The most common legal problem reported by litigants seeking help is child custody, followed by divorce and child support.

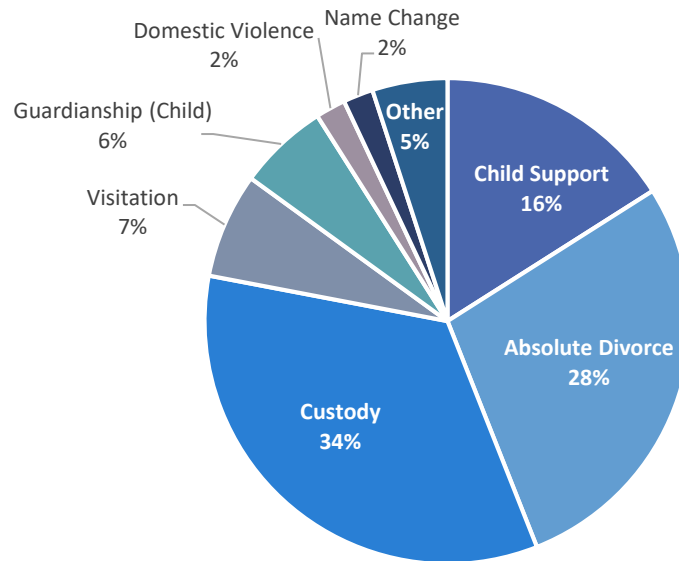


Figure 14. FLSHCs - Case Type - FY19

Nearly 60% of FLSHC users in FY19 were female, and most (45%) reported that they were between the ages of 30 and 49. Thirty percent of FLSHC users reported an annual household income of between \$0 and \$14,999 per year.

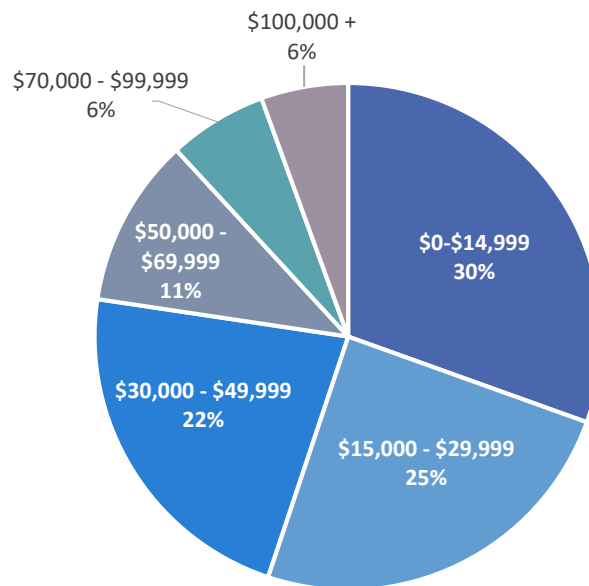


Figure 15. FLSHCs - Annual Household Income - FY19

Most FLSHC users speak English. FLSHC staff use bilingual staff, staff interpreters, and telephonic interpretation to communicate with litigants who have limited English proficiency.

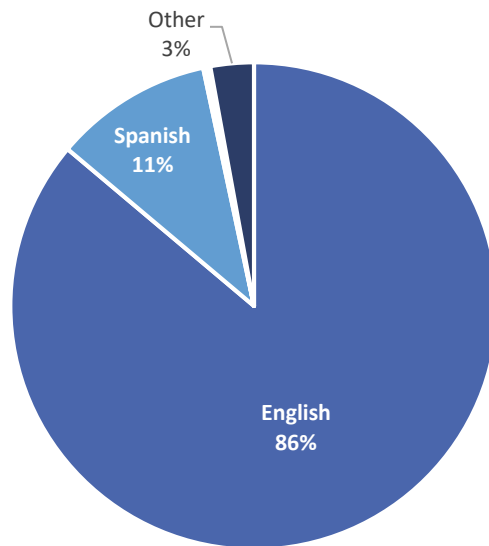


Figure 16. FLSHCs - Language - FY19

In FY17, the People’s Law Library (PLL), the Frederick County Pro Se Clinic attorney, and the Administrative Office of the Court’s Juvenile and Family Services program collaborated to create the **Notebook Project**.

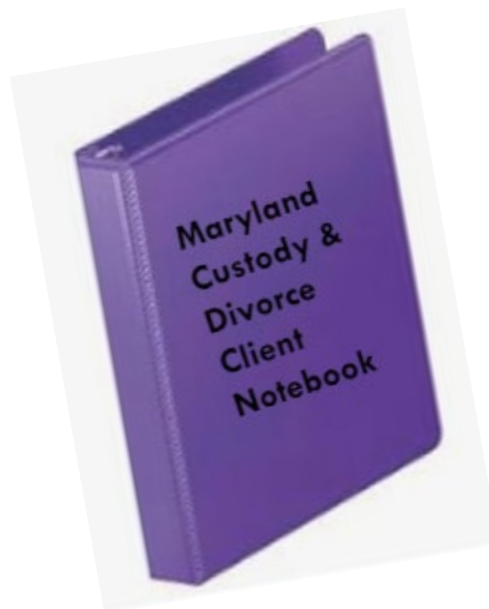


Figure 17. FLSHCs - Family Law Notebook

This tool helps litigants organize case documents and arguments, so they may effectively present their case to the court. The notebook is being used by self-help centers and legal services providers statewide.

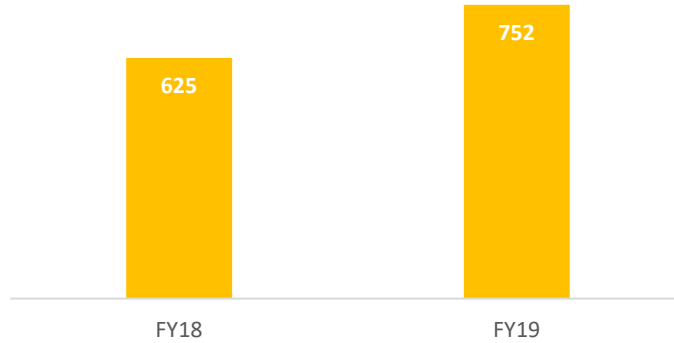


Figure 18. FLSHCs - Notebook Use FY18 - FY19

On the Eastern Shore, several counties have partnered with nonprofit legal services provider Mid-Shore Pro Bono to provide “notebook clinics.” The clinics bring together volunteer attorneys and litigants without counsel for legal advice and assistance.

In Frederick County, where the notebooks originated, the self-help center is partnering with nonprofit legal services provider Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service to connect “notebook clients” with attorneys who are willing to provide pro bono representation to litigants who have organized a notebook.

Self-Help Centers

Walk-In Services District Court Self-Help Resource Centers

In FY19, there were four full-time District Court Self-Help Resource Center (DCSHRC) locations in Baltimore City, Glen Burnie, Upper Marlboro, and Salisbury. A new part-time DCSHRC opened in Cambridge in FY19.

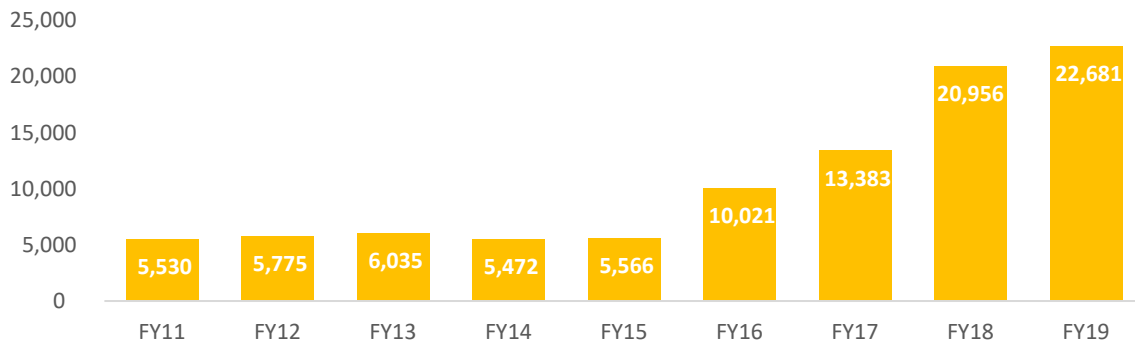


Figure 19. DCSHRCs - Total Volume FY11 - FY19

DCSHRCs serve litigants in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions. Staff provided nearly 23,000 instances of service to at DCSHRCs in FY19. Demand was greatest in Prince George’s County.

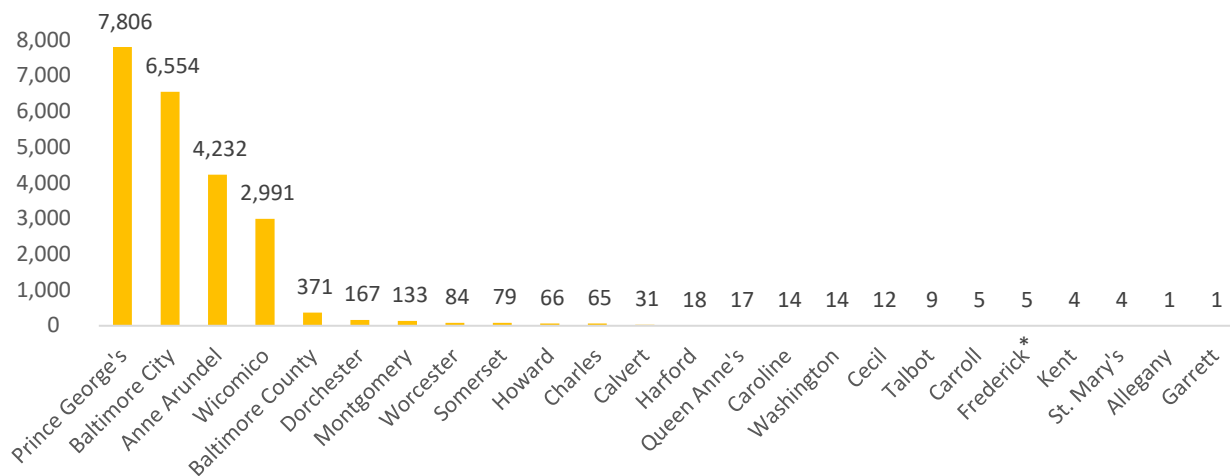


Figure 20. DCSHRCs – Jurisdiction of Cases - FY19

*Litigants in Frederick may get help with District Court matters at the all-civil Frederick Self-Help Center. Data from this self-help center is reported beginning on page 21 of this report.

A new center opened in **Cambridge**, Dorchester County, in October 2018. The Cambridge location is open part-time on Fridays, the court’s civil day. In the first nine months of operation, attorneys provided 167 instances of service. Demand is highest for expungement of criminal records and small and large claims.

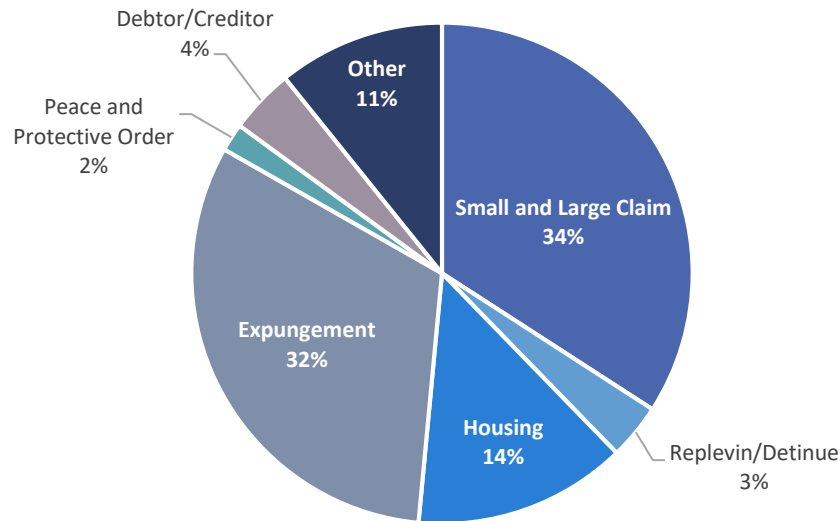


Figure 21. DCSHRC - Cambridge Case Types - FY19

Staff at the **Upper Marlboro** DCSHRC provided 8,017 instances of service in FY19. Demand was greatest for assistance with small and large claims. Demand for housing law assistance matters is lower at this center compared to others because landlord and tenant matters are heard in the Hyattsville courthouse.

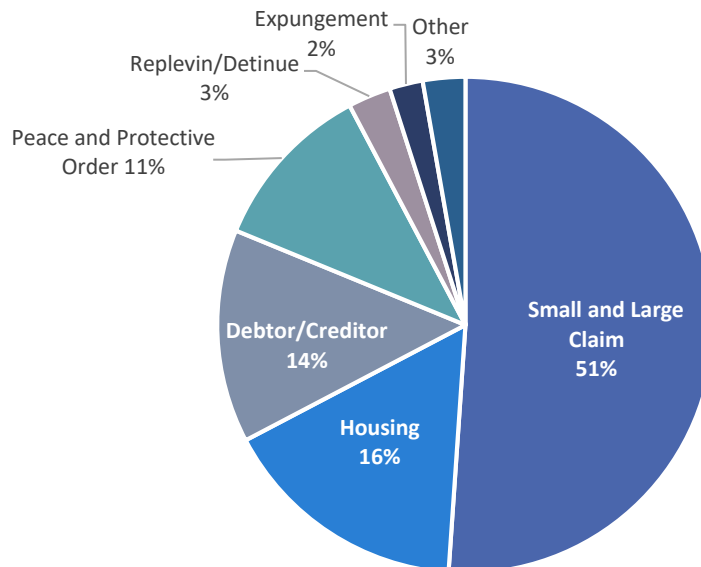


Figure 22. DCSHRC - Upper Marlboro Case Types - FY19

At the **Baltimore City** DCSHRC location, demand is greatest for assistance with housing matters including nonpayment of rent, tenant holding over, breach of lease, and wrongful detainer.

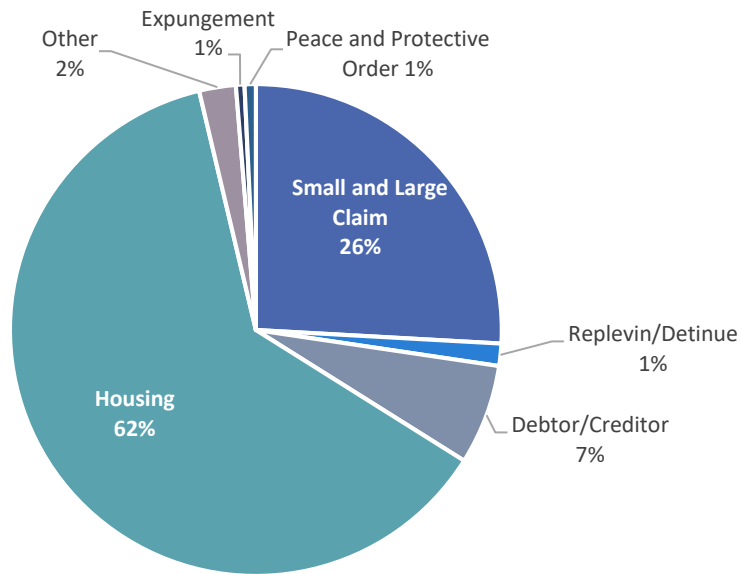


Figure 23. DCSHRC - Baltimore City Case Types - FY19

In **Salisbury**, litigants most often seek assistance with expungement of criminal records.

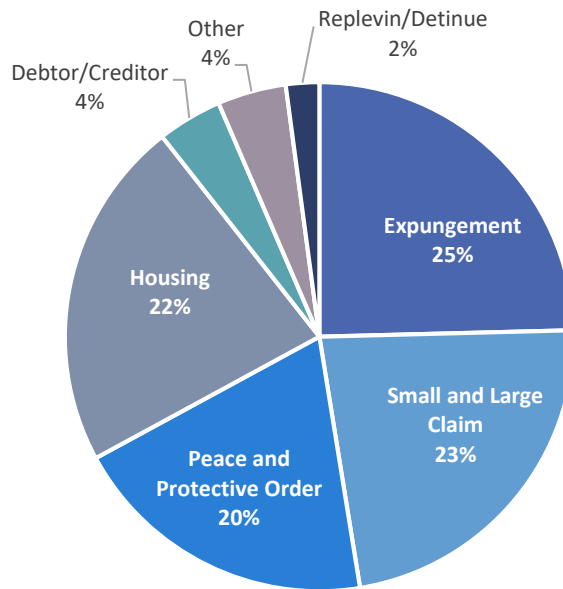


Figure 24. DCSHRC - Salisbury Case Types - FY19

Most DCSHRC users are female (55%) between the age of 30 and 49 (41%). The largest percentage of users (30%) report an income of \$0 - \$14,999 per year.

Program staff leverage technology to improve accessibility for self-represented litigants. While most litigants speak English, program staff use telephonic interpretation to communicate with individuals who have limited English proficiency.

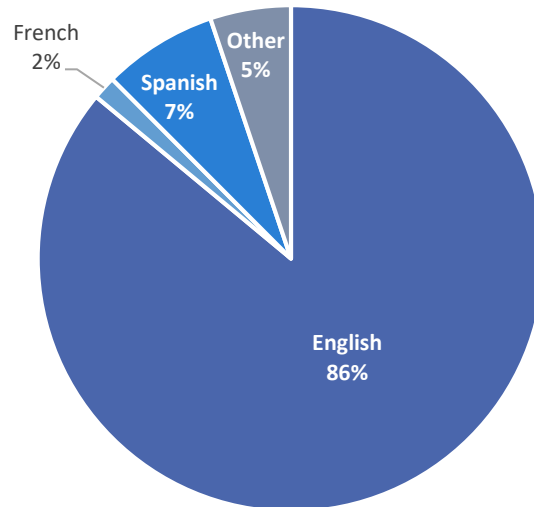


Figure 25. DCSHRC - Language - FY19

Staff continue to explore ways to enhance access for persons with disabilities. All DCSHRC locations are equipped with laptops that provide remote video interpretation for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. At the 2019 Self-Help Center Provider Conference, a breakout session focused on aiding litigants who have sensory, visual, and auditory impairments.

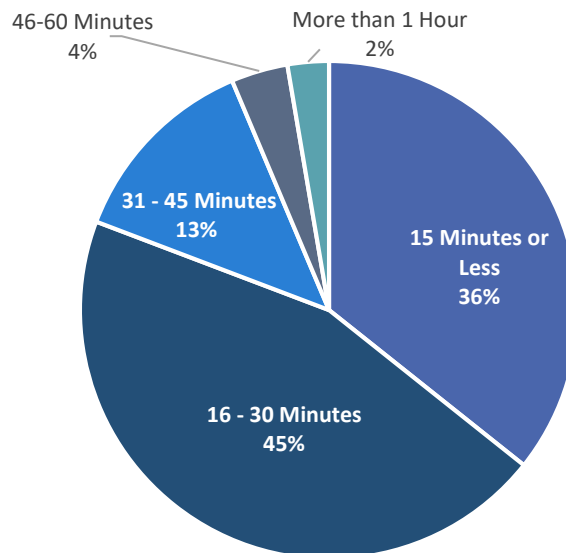


Figure 26. DCSHRC - All Centers - Average Engagement Length - FY19

Attorneys typically spend between 15 and 30 minutes with litigants.

Self-Help Centers

Walk-In Services Frederick Self-Help Center

The **Frederick Self-Help Center** launched in July 2018 as the first walk-in self-help center in Maryland to assist litigants with all civil matters at both the District and circuit court level. This model is possible because the courts are co-located in this jurisdiction. In the first year, there were 5,625 instances of service.

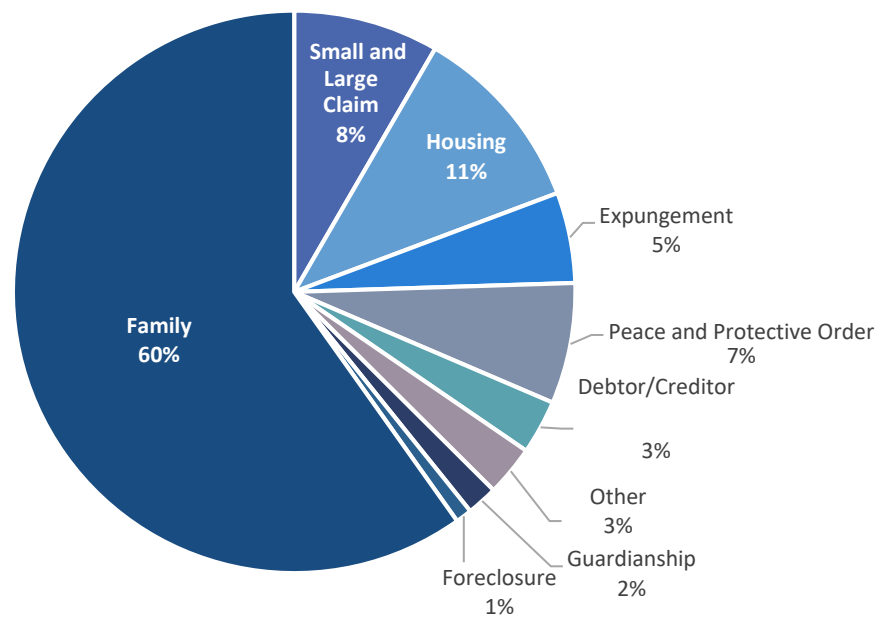


Figure 27. Frederick - Case Types - FY19

In Frederick, litigants most often seek help with family law matters, followed by District Court housing matters, including failure to pay rent and small and large claims.

Most litigants seeking help at the Frederick Self-Help Center have matters in that jurisdiction; however, litigants also come from other jurisdictions, including Montgomery and Washington counties.

In Frederick, most (58%) litigants served by the center in FY19 were women between the ages of 30 and 49 (50%). Most speak English.

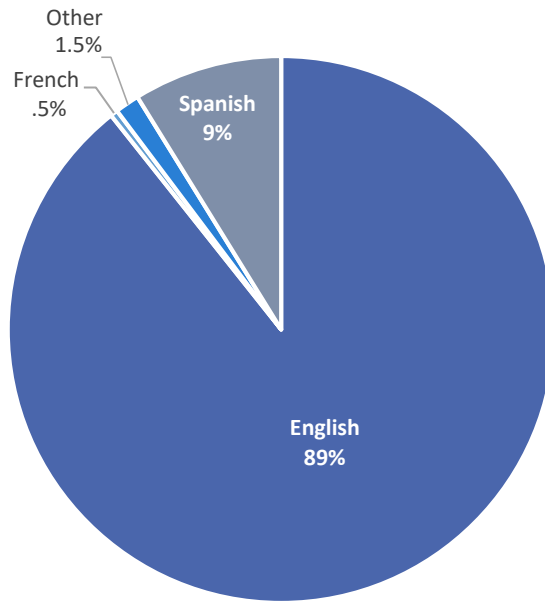


Figure 28. Frederick County Self-Help Center -Primary Language Spoken - FY19

My Laws, My Courts, My Maryland Video Series

In FY14, the Maryland Judiciary launched the *My Laws, My Courts, My Maryland* video library for self-represented litigants. By FY17, the library grew to 21 titles, including a variety of substantive and procedural legal topics. Early videos ranged in length from 10-15 minutes.

Self-Help Videos

My Laws, My Courts, My Maryland: A video library for the self-represented

Have a legal problem and don't know where to begin? These videos may help. Each video includes transcripts in English and Spanish, a tip sheet, and links to resources, forms, and court services. [Watch this 30-second preview to see how the Self-Help Video Library works.](#)






| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <h3>Law Topics</h3> <p>What is service of process? Expungement? Rent Escrow? Each video in this series tackles a specific legal subject.</p>  <p>Learn More >></p> | <h3>Court Basics</h3> <p>From filing fees to court interpreters, videos in this series deliver fundamentals on how the court operates.</p>  <p>Learn More >></p> | <h3>Family</h3> <p>Videos on family matters, including Adult Guardianship, Child Custody, and Child Welfare.</p>  <p>Learn More >></p> | <h3>Guardianship</h3> <p>Considering becoming a guardian? Have you been appointed? This video series has the information you need for success.</p>  <p>Learn More >></p> | <h3>Get Started</h3> <p>Should you represent yourself? Or should you get a lawyer? These videos help get you on track to self-representation.</p>  <p>Learn More >></p> |
|---|---|---|--|--|

Figure 29. *My Laws, My Courts, My Maryland* Video Library - FY19

Recognizing the challenges of these longer videos, in FY18, the Maryland Judiciary began producing shorter videos, each focused on a discrete topic. Also in FY18, the online video library was redesigned to be more visually appealing to self-represented litigants.

In FY19, the Judiciary’s online video library grew to 48 titles, adding 13 new titles to the library. New titles include a four-part child custody series, a three-part child welfare series, and a six-part expungement series.

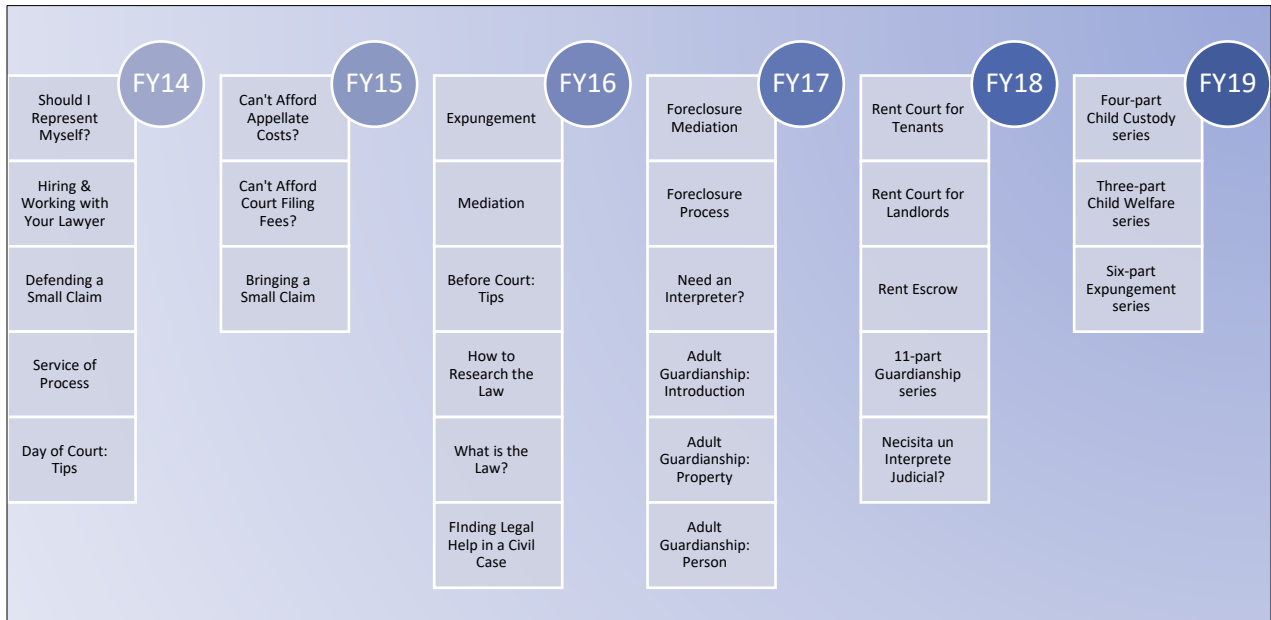


Figure 30. Video Library - Titles FY14 - FY19

New videos mark a permanent shift from motion-graphic desktop publishing to live-action.



Figure 31. Video Library - Child Custody - FY19

In FY19, online users viewed the *My Laws, My Courts, My Maryland* video library 53,489 times, nearly doubling the number of views from FY18.

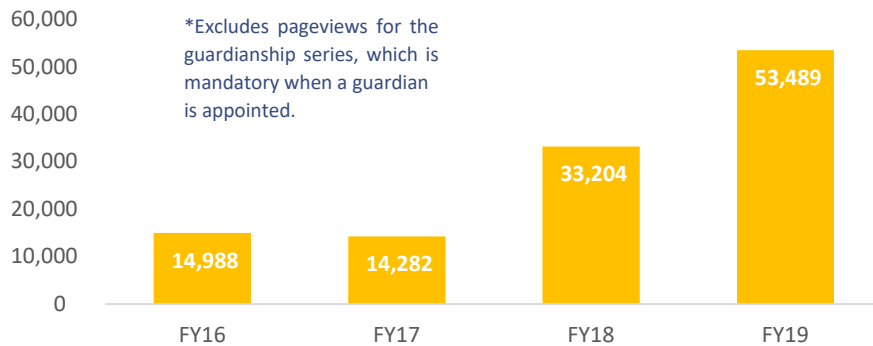


Figure 32. Video Library - Total Views FY16 - FY19

“ I wanted to give praise for the breadth of issues presented in the Maryland Court Video Library. The videos have provided clear and concise explanations of often confusing issues for my team and constituents. Thanks! ”

Ryan Lancaster, Maryland Department of Human Services

While the *My Laws, My Courts, My Maryland* video library serves thousands each month at mdcourts.gov/videos, many more individuals are not aware of these resources. In Summer 2019, the Maryland Judiciary launched a campaign to promote the library, producing a 30-second spot which ran at the Motor Vehicle Administration on their MVN Network and on Maryland Public Television.



Figure 33. Video Library - Promotional Campaign - FY19

CourtTV

In FY19, the Judiciary launched CourtTV. This project permits court staff to connect with court users statewide to provide timely information, messages, directions, and legal resources. CourtTV monitors are located in high-traffic areas in court locations in every Maryland county and Baltimore City.



Figure 34. CourtTV Monitor - District Court for Queen Anne's County.

Digital screens attract attention and help courts disseminate information about programs, services, and resources. Content is managed by a central server in Annapolis and may be pushed out to all jurisdictions simultaneously or customized to include jurisdiction-specific programs and services.

In FY19, staff worked to link CourtTV display monitors that had been previously installed statewide to the Maryland Judiciary's data center servers. There are presently 62 court

locations networked to a dedicated server for deployment of video content. The Maryland Judiciary completed the second half of statewide media box installations from July to September 2018.

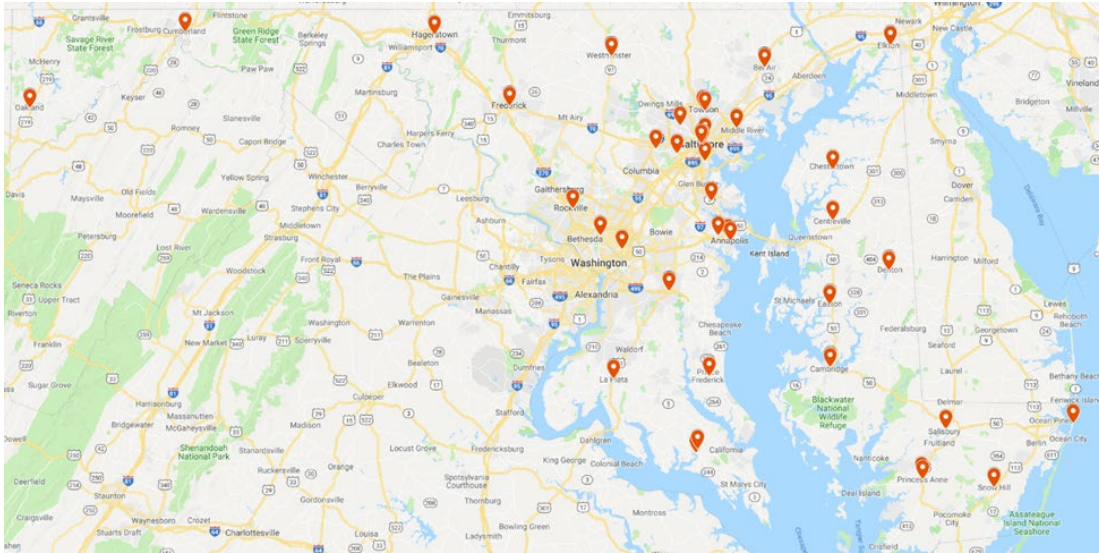


Figure 35. CourtTV - Completed Installations – FY19

In FY19, staff were trained on how to develop and deploy video content on the CourtTV system. CourtTV currently streams eight hours of video content including *Expungement*, *Child Custody*, and *Bringing a Small Claim*. Access to Justice staff are currently working with individual courts to customize playlists designed to meet local needs.

There are many benefits to CourtTV, including providing timely messages to court users, emergency notifications, reminders of upcoming holidays or court closures, and location-specific program information, ensuring uniformity of messaging and transparency.

Webinars

In June 2016, the Judiciary launched a webinar series for self-represented litigants. In FY19, live topics were offered on *Filing for Divorce in Maryland* and *Child Custody*. Live classes are offered from 10 - 11 a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month.



Figure 36. Live Webinars - FY19

Webinar users report a high level of satisfaction with the live classes.

“ This process is and has been overwhelming. Having this resource available is wonderful. I am forming a solid outline to this process to understand it and proceed through it. You pulled it together, and I am not so unbalanced with proceeding. Thank you. ”

Divorce webinar participant, April 2019

Each year, staff endeavor to offer new webinar topics that are relevant to self-represented litigants. Staff review data to determine if existing topics are meeting the needs of self-represented litigants and if new topics should be developed.





| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|
|  | How to Collect Your District Court Judgment Even if you win your case, the court will not collect the money for you. If the defendant does not pay, it is up to you to enforce the judgment. | Watch Now |
|  | Filing Your Case in the District Court of Maryland This class will help you learn when and how to fill out the form used to start many civil cases including small claims and return of property. | Watch Now |
|  | Facing Eviction for Failure to Pay Rent? This class will help you learn about Failure to Pay Rent in Maryland. | Watch Now |
|  | Filing a Failure to Pay Rent Case? This class will help you learn how to fill out the form. | Watch Now |

Figure 37. Webinars – On-Demand Topics - FY19

Live topics that have low attendance are recorded and offered “on demand.” Webinars on some District Court topics, including *Filing Your Case in the District Court* and *Filing or Facing Eviction for Failure to Pay Rent?*, may not have high attendance when offered live because litigants may be unwilling to wait to watch a live class.

Law Libraries

Maryland court law libraries assist the public, attorneys, and court staff by connecting individuals with legal information, resources, and local referrals. In FY19, law libraries provided more than 146,000 in-person instances of service.

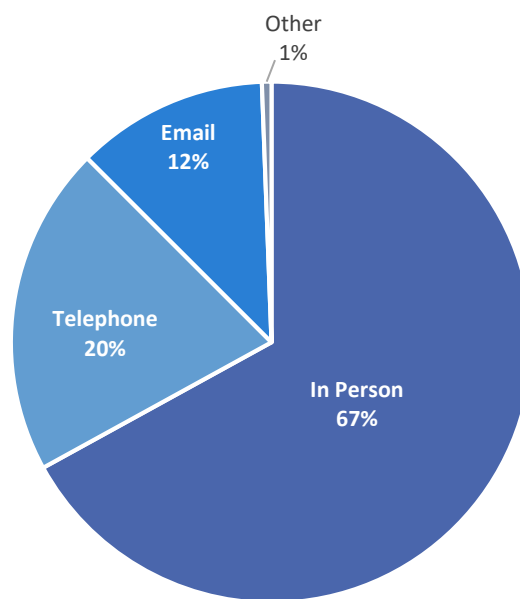


Figure 38. Law Libraries - Question Format - FY19

Maryland court law libraries also assist patrons remotely via telephone, email, and online. Remote inquiries are increasing, accounting for 33% of library reference activity in FY19. In total, there were more than 200,000 instances of service in FY19.

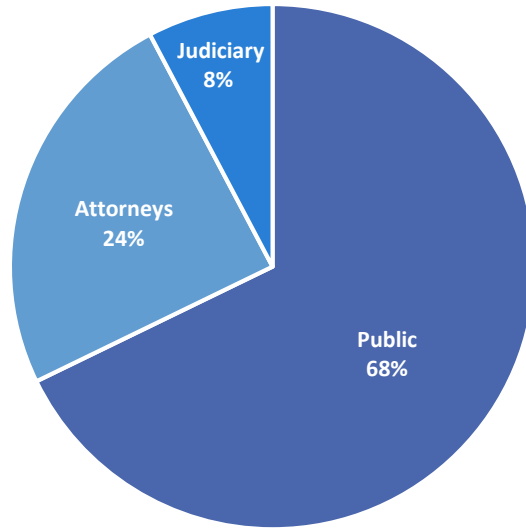


Figure 39. Law Libraries - Patron Type - FY19

Most law library patrons are members of the public. Librarians maintain special collections geared towards non-lawyers. Resources include Nolo, Sphinx, the People’s Law Library, and others.

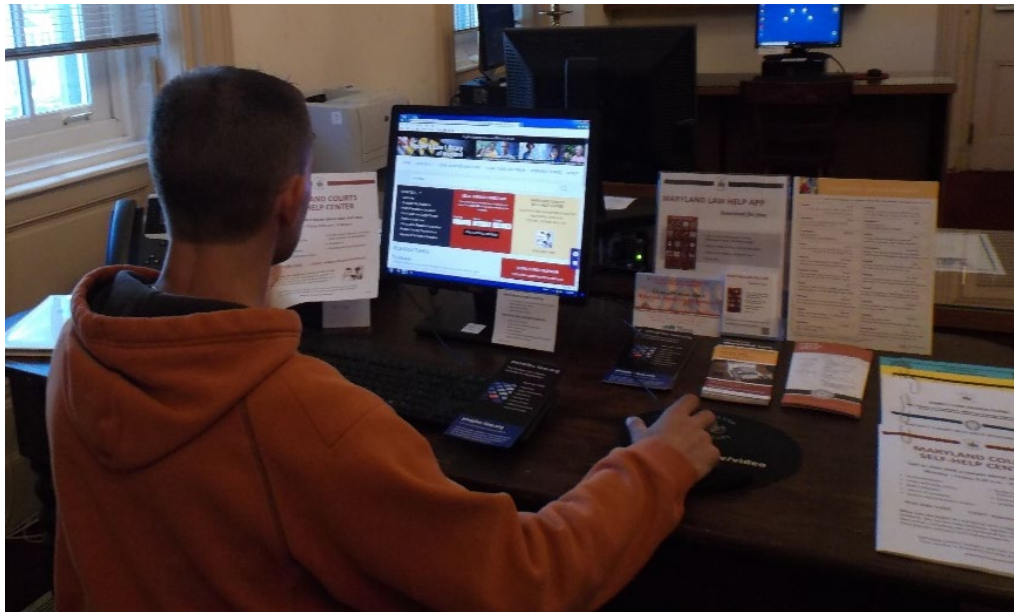


Figure 40. Law Libraries - Patron Browses PLL in the Circuit Court for Carroll County - FY19

Maryland court law libraries address all types of legal questions, including civil, criminal, and traffic matters. Resources on criminal and traffic matters are often scarce.

In FY19, the **Circuit Court for Charles County** partnered with local public library personnel to organize a program for the public on the topic of traffic stops, which are distressing and can be confusing to the uninitiated. The panel brought together staff from the offices of the Sheriff, the Public Defender, the State’s Attorney, and Hon. Patrick J. Devine of the Circuit Court for Charles County.



Figure 41. Law Libraries - So You Were Pulled Over FY19

Image Credit: Lindsay Renner-Wood/Maryland Independent

Law librarians are knowledgeable about the many programs and resources available to assist litigants without counsel and may provide background information to help litigants understand the legal system and recognize where their situation may fit.

“ The librarian was extremely knowledgeable and provided all the information and resources I needed for my civil matter. Thank you. ”

Mike K., visitor to Circuit Court for Carroll County Law Library

Law libraries also offer web-based database access and other digital materials, such as task force reports, state government publications, and online information resources including the People’s Law Library. Maintaining these collections requires significant staff oversight to ensure self-represented litigants and other patrons can seamlessly connect to helpful legal information.

Maryland court libraries assist patrons face-to-face as well as remotely via telephone, email, and web. In FY19, Maryland’s nine staffed law libraries (eight court law libraries and the Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library) answered 64,701 questions.

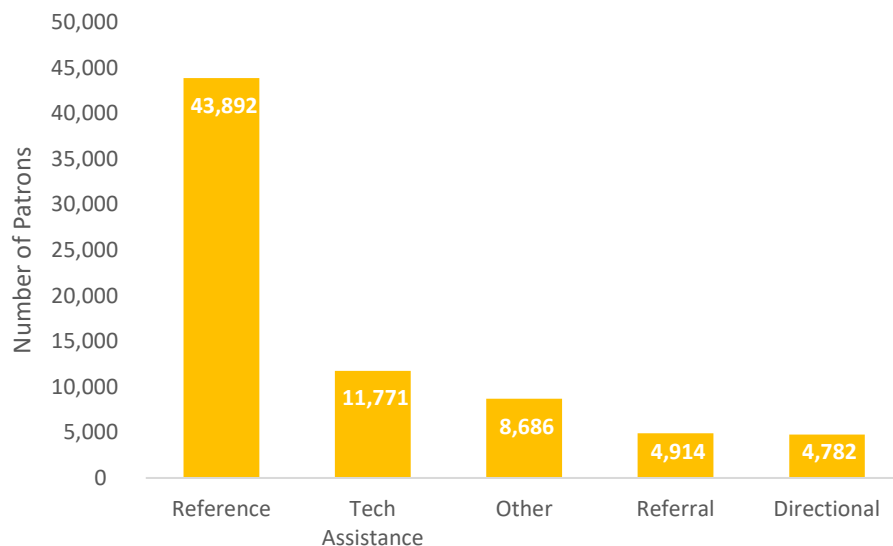


Figure 42. Law Libraries - Question Type - FY19

Access to trustworthy legal information is critical to ensure all Marylanders have access to justice. While a great deal of legal information is available online, many people do not know how to find it. Maryland court law libraries use technology to connect people to reliable legal information. In FY19, 18% of reference interactions at Maryland court law libraries were solely about technical assistance. Technical assistance includes situations where the patron knows what he or she wants but cannot figure out how to access it. Law libraries provide help with searching, assessing the reliability of internet sources, word processing, scanning, and locating additional resources.

In FY19, 150 public librarians from across the state completed a basic legal research training, dubbed **Law on the Frontlines: Resources for Public Library Reference**. The training showed public librarians how to assist the public with legal reference questions, and where to send them to find quality legal reference materials, including forms and brochures. This program was developed as a collaboration between the Conference of Maryland Circuit Court Law Library Directors (CMCLLD), the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, the Maryland State Library agency, and the Administrative Office of the Court’s Access to Justice staff.

In FY19, the group began developing an advanced training module to focus in more detail on family law, landlord and tenant, housing, debt collection, and employment matters. The advanced module will aid public librarians in locating information through use of hands-on exploration and assessment exercises.

People's Law Library

The **People's Law Library (PLL)** is a legal information and self-help website managed by the Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library. The site supports self-represented litigants in Maryland state courts with the following features:

- “How do I...?” – Procedural Law Articles
- Legal Encyclopedia Articles
- Legal Services Directory
- Legal Clinic Calendar
- Live Chat – Ask a Law Librarian

Sixteen new articles were published in FY19, including articles on immigration law, family law, and landlord and tenant matters. In FY19, PLL staff worked to translate existing articles into languages identified as a priority by the Access to Justice Language Services group.

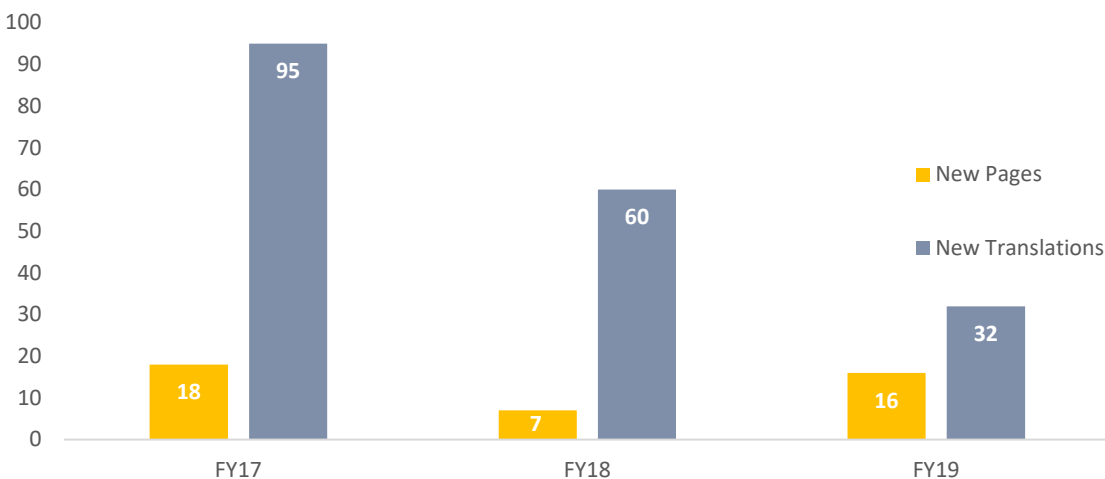


Figure 43. PLL - Content Development FY17 - FY19

PLL now features more than 500 articles on a wide range of topics, including family law, landlord and tenant law, estates and trusts, civil procedure, and consumer law.

Library staff and volunteers update existing articles on a continuing basis to reflect changes in the law and updates to programs and other available resources. Over 40% of procedural and substantive law articles are available in Spanish. New PLL articles include:

| | |
|---|--|
| Notario Fraud | Protective Orders: Frequently Asked Questions |
| Temporary Protected Status | Extreme Risk Protective Orders |
| Asylum | Standby Guardianship |
| Information for Immigrants and New Americans | Overview of Divorce in Maryland |
| Limited Scope Representation | What is a Divorce Decree? |
| Prince George’s County Housing Code Laws | Grounds for Absolute Divorce |
| Prince George’s County Human Relations Commission: Landlord and Tenant Law | Difference Between Absolute and Limited Divorce |
| Housing: Local Laws | Joint Ownership of Real Property |

In August 2018, the PLL site was redesigned and technology upgraded to meet three main goals: (1) increase site accessibility, readability, and aesthetic qualities; (2) better connect people with information; and (3) connect users with helpful resources.

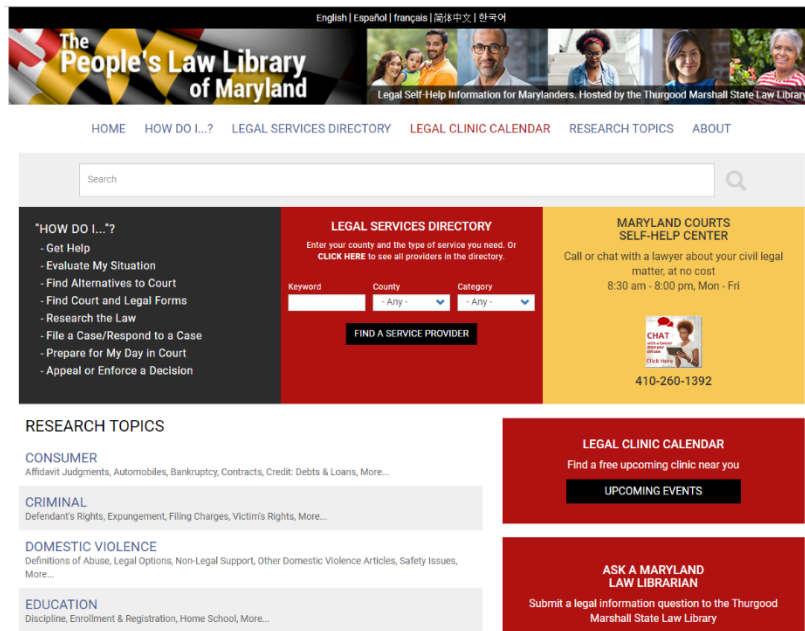


Figure 44. PLL - Site Redesign

User data suggests PLL’s redesign was successful in achieving those goals. In FY19, total users increased 16% to over 1.3 million annually.

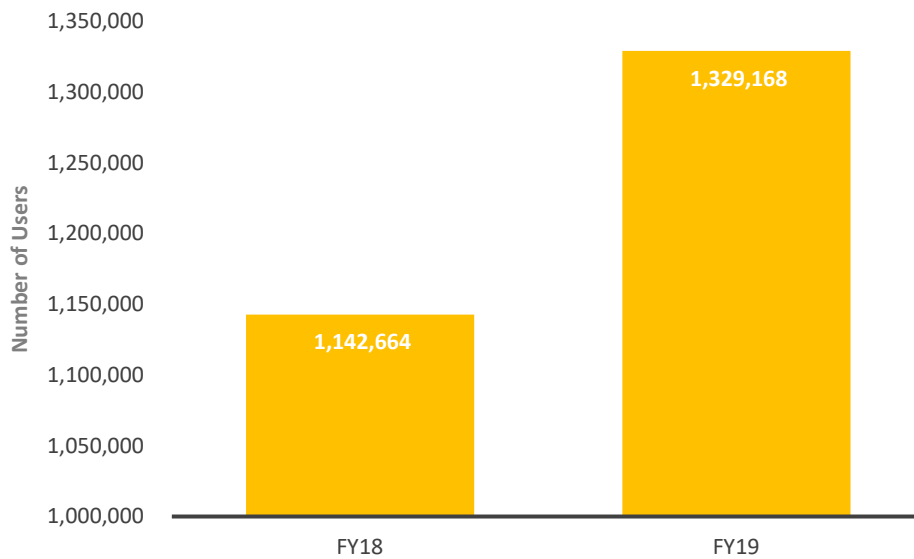


Figure 45. PLL - Overall Users FY18 - FY19

The total number of Maryland users set a new record in FY19 at nearly 475,000, and site pageviews increased 18% to nearly 2.5 million, or more than 200,000 per month.

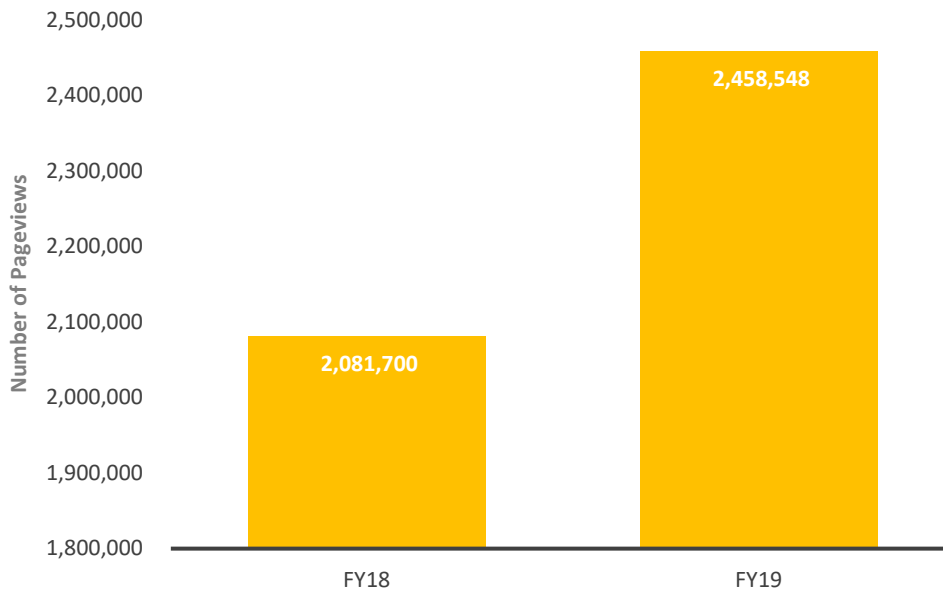


Figure 46. PLL – Annual Pageviews FY18 - FY19

One unanticipated benefit of PLL’s redesign was the effectiveness of a feature called “Ask a Law Librarian.” The feature allows a user to fill out a simple form with a question and receive a response from a reference librarian at the Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library.

In the first 10 months, nearly 3,000 questions were asked by patrons.

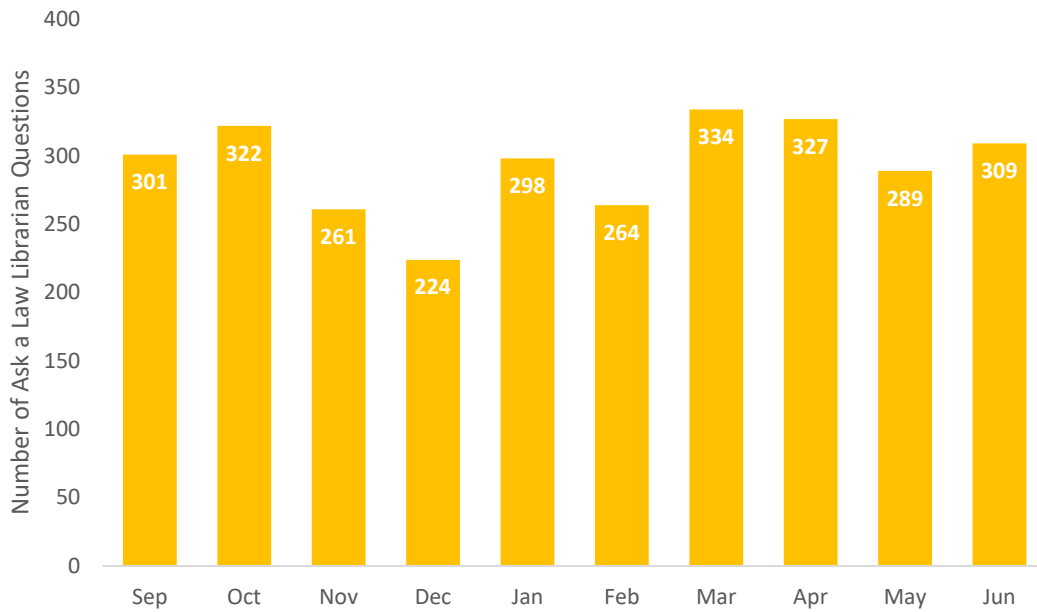


Figure 47. PLL - Ask a Law Librarian Questions

Fifty-four percent (54%) of users access PLL on a mobile device.

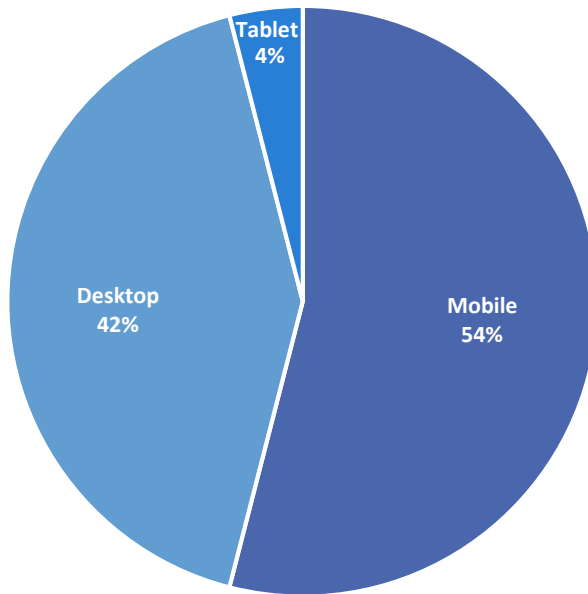


Figure 48. PLL - Device - FY19

The Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) case management system continues to roll out statewide, and staff from the Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library are training circuit court staff on how to assist self-represented litigants and members of the bar with e-filing. **MDEC trainings** teach staff how to answer questions from the public about e-filing and viewing documents both remotely and within the courthouse.

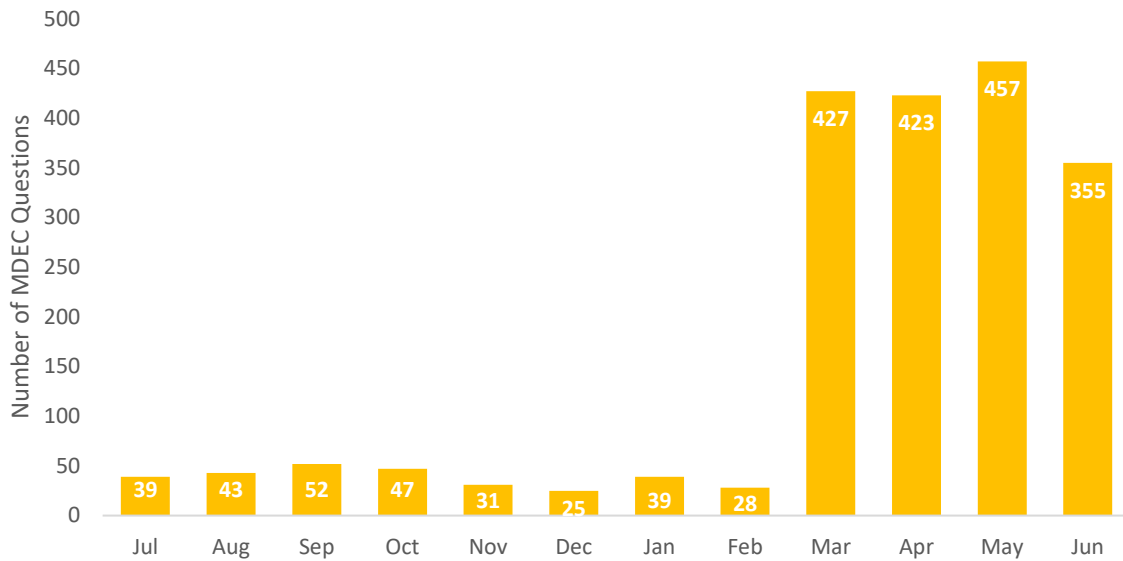


Figure 49. PLL - Number of MDEC Questions - FY19

Throughout FY19, law librarians had nearly 2,000 reference interactions with patrons regarding MDEC and e-filing. Baltimore County went live with MDEC in February 2019, which may have contributed to the spike in questions beginning in March 2019.

As MDEC continues to expand to the most populous jurisdictions in the state, we anticipate demand for MDEC support will increase in the coming years.

Document Assembly: Maryland Guide & File

Future Initiatives

Work has commenced on **Maryland Guide & File**—the Judiciary’s document assembly program. Document assembly assists individuals with preparing court documents electronically.

Welcome to Maryland Guide & File

This free program works by asking you questions and using your answers to fill out your forms. Information you type into this interview will appear on the forms exactly as you enter it. Try to use full sentences and punctuation. When you are done, you may print your forms and file them with the court.

This program is intended for individuals who do not have an attorney.

This program does **not** provide legal advice. Talk to an attorney if you need legal advice.

The Purpose

This interview will guide you in completing the forms needed to file for custody.

What You Need Before You Start

Be sure you have the following information and materials with you:

- Names and current addresses of all parents and children involved.
- Five (5) years of address history for each child and with whom they lived.
- Prior family law related court cases for each child.
- Other cases you have been involved in (witness, party, or otherwise) regarding custody or visitation of each child.
- People other than the defendant(s) who have physical custody, claim physical/ legal custody, or visitation with each child.

Forms to be Completed

This interview will prepare the court documents in the list below. If a form is listed as **Optional**, that form may not be included when you finish the interview depending on how you answered the questions.

- Form CC-DCM-001 - Civil - Domestic Case Information Report (This form tells the court a little about your case so court staff know how to file your case.)
- Form CC-DR-001 - Complaint for Custody (This form asks the court to order custody to you.)
- Optional Form CC-DR-030 - Financial Statement or Form CC-DR-031 - Financial Statement (These forms are only included if you request child support. Depending on how you answer questions in the interview, one or the other will be provided.)
- Optional Form CC-DC-089 - Prepaid Costs Waiver (This form is only included if you cannot pay the court fees to file your case.)

If you need help navigating, click [HERE](#), otherwise, click **NEXT** below.

Let's get started!

Interview Menu Go to Maryland Child Custody Next

Figure 50. Guide & File - Intro Page - FY19

Litigants are guided through a series of plain-language interview questions, and responses are used to populate court forms. These forms can be printed and filed in person or e-filed.

Plaintiff information

Your full name

First * Middle Last * Suffix

John Doe [Select]

Address

Street address *

123 Main St.

City * State * Zip Code *

Annapolis MD 21401

Telephone number *

Area number Four number

410-555-1234 410-555-1234

These include dashes. These exclude dashes.

Email address

Interview Menu Go to Plaintiff information Previous Next

Figure 51. Guide & File - Form - FY19

Interviews are developed, reviewed, and vetted by a small work group of the Judiciary's Forms Subcommittee. The group began by developing questions for small claims. Other topics currently in development include child custody, divorce, and fee waivers. The first interviews are scheduled to go live in FY20.

Maryland Law Help

Future Initiatives

Maryland Law Help is a free mobile app that connects Marylanders with legal information on their smartphones and tablets.



Figure 52. Maryland Law Help App - FY19

The app brings together tools and resources developed by the Maryland Judiciary and others to help Marylanders use the courts or find legal help.

In FY19, work began on a programming overhaul to increase functionality and mobile responsiveness and update the design. Work is expected to be completed in FY20.

Domestic Law Forms

Future Initiatives

In FY19, the **Domestic Law Committee** created an interdisciplinary Domestic Forms Work Group to evaluate domestic law forms. The work group is tasked with reviewing 41 domestic law forms and 19 form instruction documents.

MARYLAND
JUDICIARY

CIRCUIT COURT FOR _____, **MARYLAND**
City/County

Located at _____ Court Address _____ Case No. _____

Name _____ vs. Name _____

Street Address _____ Apt # _____ Street Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Area _____ Telephone _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Area _____ Telephone _____

Plaintiff **Defendant**

COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE

I, _____, representing myself, state that:

- The defendant and I were married on _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year in _____ City/County/State where Married in a civil religious ceremony.
- Check all that apply:**
 - I have lived in Maryland since: _____ Month/Year
 - My spouse has lived in Maryland since: _____ Month/Year
- Check all that apply: (See paragraph 15)**
 - The grounds for divorce occurred in the State of Maryland.
 - The grounds for divorce occurred outside the State of Maryland and I or my spouse have been a resident of the State of Maryland for at least six (6) months prior to the date of the filing of this Complaint.
- Children (check one):**
 - We have no children together (skip paragraphs 6 through 11) or
 - My spouse and I are the parents of the following child(ren):

| Name | Date of Birth | Name | Date of Birth |
|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
- I know of the following related cases concerning the child(ren) or parties (such as domestic violence/protective order, paternity, divorce, custody, visitation (child access), CINA, delinquency, termination of parental rights, adoption or other cases):

Figure 53. Domestic Law Forms - Complaint for Absolute Divorce - FY19

The work group will also determine if new domestic forms should be created. The forms, which will be available to the public in FY20, will be issued using principles of plain language and graphic design to be more accessible to self-represented litigants.

FY19 Program Costs

District Court Self-Help Resource Centers (DCSHRC). Funding for the four DCSHRCs comes from the District Court of Maryland. FY19 staffing costs totaled \$2.1 million. Additional costs are expended for office space, supplies, and technology.

Maryland Courts Self-Help Center (MCSHC). MCSHC staff is jointly funded by the District Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts. FY19 expenditures were just under \$1.7 million. Other program costs include office space, supplies, technology, and chat software.

Family Law Self-Help Centers (FLSHCs). FLSHCs are funded by grants from the Administrative Office of the Courts. Funds are distributed via Juvenile and Family Services and are allocated by each individual circuit court. In FY19, FLSHC expenditures were \$1.5 million. Garrett and Howard counties did not allocate funds to support self-help services. In FY19, a pilot videoconferencing project launched in the Circuit Court for Howard County and was staffed by attorneys at the MCSHC, who are funded as noted above.

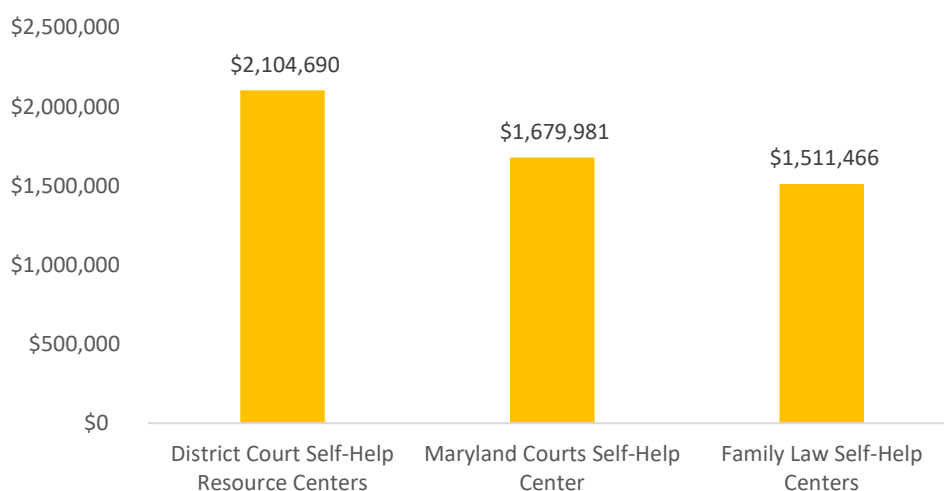


Figure 54. Self-Help Center Expenditures - FY19

Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library. In FY19, the state law library budget was \$2.7 million, excluding funds budgeted for the Maryland Code volumes and database access for judges.

Circuit Court Law Libraries. Maryland circuit court law libraries are not funded uniformly. Annual budgets include a combination of appropriations from county budgets, membership dues, appearance fees, criminal fines and forfeitures, and miscellaneous sources.

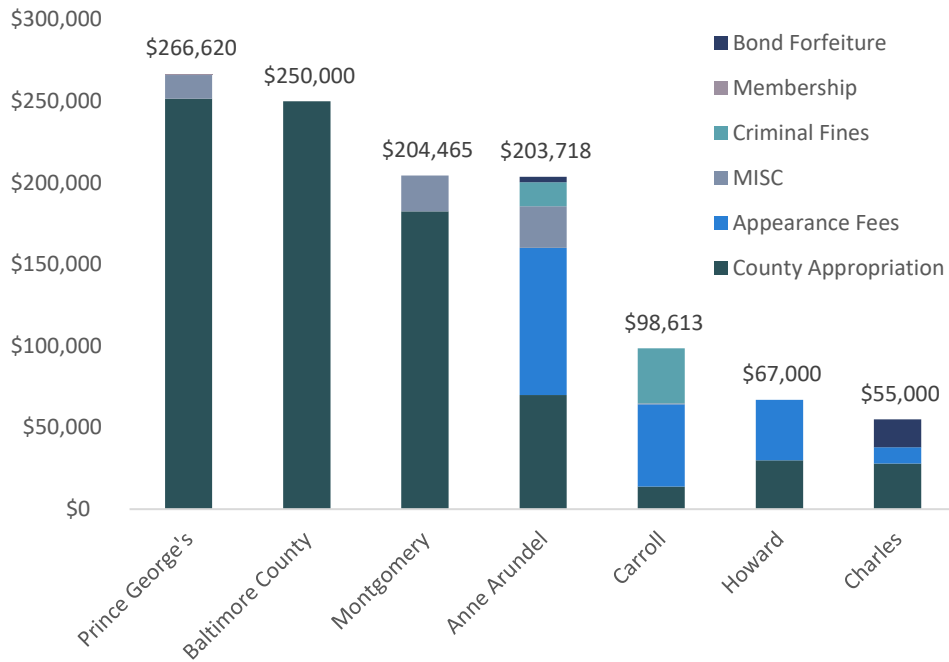


Figure 55. Law Libraries - Funding Sources - FY19

Index

Walk-In Self-Help Centers

DISTRICT COURT SELF-HELP RESOURCE CENTERS

Baltimore City

District Court in Baltimore City
Civil Division
501 East Fayette Street, 3rd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Glen Burnie

District Court in Anne Arundel County
George M. Taylor Multi-Service Center
7500 Gov. Ritchie Highway, Room 205
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Upper Marlboro

District Court in Prince George's County
Bourne Wing, Room 069B
14735 Main Street
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Salisbury

District Court in Wicomico County
201 Baptist Street, Room 2248A
Salisbury, MD 21801

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cambridge

District Court in Dorchester County
310 Gay Street
Cambridge, MD 21613

Fridays: 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.; 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FREDERICK SELF-HELP CENTER

Frederick

Frederick Self-Help Center – All Civil
Circuit Court for Frederick County
100 West Patrick Street, Lower Level
Frederick, MD 21701
Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTERS

Allegany County

Circuit Court for Allegany County
Courthouse Annex
59 Prospect Square
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday: 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Contact: Allegany Law Foundation, 301-722-3390

Anne Arundel County

Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County
Circuit Court Law Library
8 Church Circle, Suite 303 (main entry floor)
Annapolis, MD 21401

Daily: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: Erin McCarthy, 410-222-1153

Baltimore City

Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Courthouse East
111 N. Calvert Street, Room 114
Baltimore, MD 21202

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Morning sign-up: 8:30 a.m.
Afternoon sign-up: 1 p.m.

Baltimore County

Circuit Court for Baltimore County
401 Bosley Ave., Room 101, First Floor
Towson, MD 21204

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Self Help Workshop last Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Calvert County

Circuit Court for Calvert County
175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Sign-up in room C213; Clinic in room B205

Wednesday: 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Contact: Rose Naughton, 410-535-1600, ext. 2516

Caroline County

Circuit Court for Caroline County
109 Market St., Room 200
Denton, MD 21629

Monday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Caroline Public Library
100 Market Street, 2nd Floor
Denton, MD 21629
Third Thursday: 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Carroll County

Circuit Court for Carroll County
Courthouse Annex
55 North Court Street, Suite 208
Westminster, MD 21157
Contact: Powel Welliver, 410-386-2751

Legal Clinic
Wednesday: 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Family Law for the People Seminar
First Wednesday: 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Family Navigator (non-legal help with forms only)
Monday - Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cecil County

Circuit Court for Cecil County
129 East Main Street, Room 205
Elkton, MD 21921

Monday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday: 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Wednesday: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Contact: Nolanda Kirby, 410-996-1157

Charles County

Circuit Court for Charles County
200 Charles Street
La Plata, MD 20646

Family
Tuesday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Civil and Family
First and third Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Contact: Jennifer Murphy, 301-932-3278

Dorchester County

Circuit Court for Dorchester County
206 High Street, Room 204
Cambridge, MD 21613

Monday: 12 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Contact: Jessica Milligan-Ross, 410-228-1395

Frederick County

Circuit Court for Frederick County
100 West Patrick Street, Lower Level
Frederick, MD 21701

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Evening hours on the third Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
(A dedicated Spanish interpreter is on site on the third Wednesday of each month) Contact: Colby S. Hall, 301-600-2023

Family Law for the People Seminars
C. Burr Artz Public Library
110 East Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
Second Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Garrett County

Circuit Court for Garrett County
203 S. 4th Street
Oakland, MD 21550

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Randy Whitaker, 301-334-7602

Harford County

Circuit Court for Harford County
20 W Courtland St., Level A
Bel Air, MD 21014

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Contact: Ann Cogan, 410-638-4916

Howard County

Circuit Court for Howard County
8360 Court Avenue, Room 209
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Contact: Sandy Brewer, 410-313-2135

In-Person: Monday, Wednesday and first and third Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Videoconferencing: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30p.m.

50+ Center at East Columbia Branch Library
6600 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD 21045
Second, third and fourth Tuesday: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Self-Help Workshop
Miller Branch Library
9421 Frederick Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Quarterly: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Register: 410-313-3650

Kent County

Circuit Court for Kent County
103 N. Cross Street, 2nd Floor
Chestertown, MD 21620

Tuesday - Thursday: 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.
Contact: Lori Jacobs, 410-810-1059

Montgomery County

Circuit Court for Montgomery County
50 Maryland Avenue
South Tower, 1st Floor, Room 1500
Rockville, MD 20850

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Evening hours on Tuesdays: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Contact: Anne Hurwitz, 240-777-9061

Prince George's County

Family Division Information Center - No advice
Circuit Court for Prince George's County
14735 Main Street, Room MO405
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Paralegal Unit - No advice
Circuit Court for Prince George's County
14735 Main Street, Room MO416
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Family Law Clinic
Circuit Court for Prince George's County
14735 Main Street, Room M2435
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Monday -Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Contact: Community Legal Services of Prince George's County, Inc. 240-391-6370

Queen Anne's County

Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County
100 Court House Square
Centreville, MD 21617
Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Contact: Kathryn St. Landreau
410-758-1773 ext. 6

Kent Island Public Library
200 Library Circle
Stevensville, MD 21666
First and second Thursday: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Centerville Public Library
121 S. Commerce Street
Centreville, MD 21671
Third and fourth Thursday: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Somerset County

Circuit Court for Somerset County
Circuit Court Annex
11774 Somerset Avenue
Princess Anne, MD 21853

Friday: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Contact: Helen (Chrissy) Webster, 410-621-7582

St. Mary's County

Circuit Court for St. Mary's County
41605 Courthouse Drive
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
First and last Friday: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Lexington Park Public Library
21677 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Blvd.
Lexington Park, MD 20650
Two Wednesdays each month, typically 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Please call for hours.
Contact: Clair Langeluttig, 301-475-7844, ext. 4121

Talbot County

Circuit Court for Talbot County
11 North Washington St., Suite 16
Easton, MD 21601

Monday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
First and third Thursday: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Barbara Mitchell, 410-770-6806

Washington County

Circuit Court for Washington County 24 Summit Avenue, Room 229 Hagerstown, MD 21740

Thursday: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Contact: Amie Spigler, 240-313-2580

Wicomico County

Circuit Court for Wicomico County
101 North Division Street
Salisbury, MD 21803

Monday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Wednesday: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Contact: Lauren Cooper, 410-334-3110

Worcester County

Circuit Court for Worcester County One West Market Street, Room 101 Snow Hill, MD 21863

Monday: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Third Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (guardianship only)
Contact: Anne Turner, 410-632-5638

Remote Services: Maryland Courts Self-Help Center

MARYLAND COURTS SELF-HELP CENTER

Phone

410-260-1392

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Live Chat

www.mdcourts.gov/selfhelp/mcshc.html

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Videoconferencing

Circuit Court for Howard County - Law Library
8360 Court Avenue, Room 209
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Law Libraries

LAW LIBRARY LOCATIONS

Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

Open to the public, full-time staff
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Blvd.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Contact: 410-260-1430

Circuit Court for Allegany County Law Library

Open to the public, not staffed
Circuit Court for Allegany County
30 Washington Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 301-777-5925

Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

Open to the public, full-time staff
Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County
8 Church Circle, Room 303
Annapolis MD 21401

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 410-222-1387

Circuit Court for Baltimore County Law Library

Open to the public, full-time staff
Circuit Court for Baltimore County
County Courts Building
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, MD 21204

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 410-887-3086

Baltimore Bar Library

Open to the public, full-time staff
Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse
100 N. Calvert St, Room 618
Baltimore, MD 21202

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. (In July
and August, Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 6
p.m.)
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (In July and August,
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
Contact: 410-727-0280

Circuit Court for Calvert County Law Library

Open to the public, not staffed
Circuit Court for Calvert County
175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Contact: 410-535-1600 ext. 2730

Circuit Court for Caroline County Law Library

Open to the public, not staffed
Circuit Court for Caroline County
109 Market Street
Denton, MD 21629

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., by
appointment or prior arrangement
Contact: 410-479-2303

Circuit Court for Carroll County Law Library

Open to the public, full-time staff
Circuit Court for Carroll County
200 Willis Street
Westminster, MD 21157

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 410-386-2672

Circuit Court for Cecil County Law Library

Not open to the public
Circuit Court for Cecil County
129 E. Main Street, 2nd Floor
Elkton, MD 21921

Contact: 410-996-5325

Circuit Court for Charles County Public Law Library

Open to the public, full-time staff
Circuit Court for Charles County
200 Charles Street
La Plata, MD 20646

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 301-932-3322

Circuit Court for Dorchester County Law Library

Open to the public, not staffed
Circuit Court for Dorchester County
206 High Street
Cambridge, MD 21613

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 410-228-6300

Circuit Court for Frederick County Law Library

Open to the public, part-time staff
Circuit Court for Frederick County
100 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 301-600-1993

Circuit Court for Garrett County Law Library

Not open to the public
Circuit Court for Garrett County
203 South 4th Street
Oakland, MD 21550

Contact: 301-334-1934

Circuit Court for Howard County Public Law Library

Open to the public, full-time staff
Circuit Court for Howard County
8360 Court Avenue
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 410-313-2135

Circuit Court for Kent County Public Law Library

Open to the public, not staffed
Circuit Court for Kent County
103 North Cross Street
Chestertown, MD 21620

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 410-778-7440

Circuit Court for Montgomery County Law Library

Open to the public, full-time staff
Circuit Court for Montgomery County
50 Maryland Ave Room N-3420
Rockville, MD 20850

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Contact: 240-777-9120

Circuit Court for Prince George's County Law Library

Open to the public, full-time staff
Circuit Court for Prince George's County
14375 Main Street, Room M1400
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 301-952-3438

Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County Law Library

Open to the public, not staffed
Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County
100 Courthouse Square
Centreville, MD 21617

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 410-758-0216

Circuit Court for Somerset County Law Library

Open to the public, staffed
Circuit Court for Somerset County
30512 Prince William Street
Princess Anne, MD 21853

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 410- 621-7581

Circuit Court for St. Mary's County Law Library

Open to the public, not staffed
Circuit Court for St. Mary's County
41605 Court House Drive
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 301-475-7844 ext. 4165

Circuit Court for Talbot County Law Library

Open to the public, not staffed
Circuit Court for Talbot County
11 N. Washington Street
Easton, MD 21601

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 410-770-6801

Circuit Court for Washington County Law Library

Open to the public, not staffed
Circuit Court for Washington County
24 Summit Avenue, Room 116
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 240-313-2570

Circuit Court for Wicomico County Law Library

Not open to the public
Circuit Court for Wicomico County
P.O. Box 4074
Salisbury, MD 21803
Contact: 410-749-6513

Circuit Court for Worcester County Law Library

Open to the public, not staffed.
Circuit Court for Worcester County
1 West Market Street, Room 228
Snow Hill, MD 21863

Monday - Friday: 8:30a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: 410-632-0600