

PRO BONO PROGRAM
26TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COLUMBIA AND MONTOUR COUNTIES

ELIGIBILITY:

Financial eligibility for the Pro Bono Program is based primarily on the household's income and resources, as well as the type of case involved. The Pro Bono Program does not use a sliding income scale. If the applicant is eligible, **consultation** services are free. If the applicant is "over-income" then no services can be provided.

Applicant **must** contact North Penn Legal Services at **800-326-7436 or 570-784-8760** prior to submitting an application to the Court Administrator's Office, excluding dependency cases with Children and Youth Services and Orphan's Court cases. If the applicant is not eligible for North Penn Legal Services, the reason must be given on the application form.

To apply for services the applicant **must appear** in the Court Administrator's Office located in the rear of the second floor of the Columbia County Courthouse and complete the necessary application. No consideration for the Pro Bono Program will be given over the telephone. Employees of the Court Administrator's Office are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice.

If you are eligible for the Pro Bono Program, you will receive notice in the form of a Court Order in the mail. It is your responsibility to contact the appointed attorney to make an appointment.

If you are determined to be **ineligible** for the Program here are three websites that include links to many useful forms for pro se individuals:

<http://www.columbiamontourcourts.com> , <http://www.pacourts.us>, and

<http://www.palawhelp.org>

CASES INCLUDED IN THE PRO BONO PROGRAM

- Dependency cases with Children & Youth Services (case must already be assigned a DP number). Does not include Safety Plans.
 - **Parents-Full Representation**
 - **Children- A Guardian Ad Litem attorney**
- Orphans Court-Terminations of Parental Rights or Adoptions- **Full Representation**
- Landlord/Tenant-(evictions only)-**Consultation only- And only if North Penn Legal has a conflict**

CASES NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRO BONO PROGRAM

- Support-contact Domestic Relations 570-387-8870
- Divorce, PFA's, Custody
- Civil Cases involving monetary/property damage
- Criminal Cases-contact Public Defender 570-416-5792
- Any case in Magisterial District Court

Applications will not be processed with missing information. A case number must be included for this application to be processed!