

## Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction

Court rules, procedures and practices can be complex. We are happy to help you if we can. However, we are allowed to help you only in certain ways, since we must be fair to everyone.

This is a list of some things the court staff can and cannot do for you.

### **WE CAN:**

Explain and answer questions about how the court works.

Provide you with the number of the lawyer referral service, legal services program and other services.

Give you general information about court rules, procedures, practices and terms.

Provide court schedules and information on how to get a case scheduled.

Provide you information from a case file as long as the case is not confidential.

Provide you with court forms and instructions that are available, and check your forms for completeness.

Give information about court deadlines, but we cannot compute deadlines for you.

### **WE CANNOT:**

Recommend whether you should file a case or what actions you should take.

Tell you what words to use in your court papers or what to say in court.

Research or interpret the law for you. We cannot apply the law to the facts of your case.

Give you an opinion about what will happen if you bring your case to court.

Let you talk to the Judge outside of court or talk to the judge for you.

Take sides in a case or provide assistance that would be unfair to the other side in your case.

Change an order signed by a judge.

If you have legal questions, we recommend you seek legal counsel.

## **What Court Staff Can and Cannot Do for You**

Court staff is ready to help you in whatever way we can. Our role is to provide you with information - not legal advice. We have been instructed not to answer questions if we do not know the answer and may refer you to other resources to assist you in getting the information you need.

- We can give you information on a court case, unless it is not available by law.
- We can give you general information on court rules, procedures and practices. The District Court rules are located on the Mille Lacs Band website in PDF format.
- We cannot tell you what to say in court.
- We cannot tell you what a judge might do.
- We can give you court-approved forms – however all forms might not be available for all legal problems.
- We can explain how to fill out forms for but not what you should write down.
- We can give you court calendars and information on scheduling a hearing.
- We cannot give you advice about whether you should file a case or whether you should take any particular action in a case.
- We cannot collect a judgment for you.
- We cannot serve (deliver) your papers for you except as indicated in the Mille Lacs Band Statutes, which are also located on the Mille Lacs band website.

Remember, the court staff is allowed to give you information. Court staff cannot act as your attorney. If you choose to represent yourself in court, you will have the same responsibilities as an attorney.

If you have legal questions, we recommend you seek legal counsel.