

What will happen when I call the LRIS?

When you call the Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS), you will speak with an interviewer experienced in analyzing potential legal issues like yours. LRIS interviewers are trained to help you decide if you require an attorney, or if non-legal assistance would better serve your needs. If a lawyer's advice is recommended, an appointment can be made for you, usually within a few workdays. Our staff will consider your specific legal issue, as well as your location and language requirements, in order to make the most appropriate and convenient referral possible.

To enable our staff to provide the proper assistance, be prepared to clearly explain your legal issue. Please understand, however, that the LRIS interviewers are not attorneys and cannot give legal advice.

Our legal interviewers are available between 9 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday. (After hours, you may leave a voicemail message with your name and phone number. A member of our staff will call you back during the following business day.) After your interview, you will be referred to an attorney who has met established standards of professional experience in the area(s) of law that relate to your legal issue.

Remember, you are under no obligation to hire the attorney to whom you are referred.

**Lawyer Referral &
Information Service**
(925) 825-5700 | www.cccbba.org

Do I really need a lawyer?

One of the most important services the LRIS provides is helping you decide if an attorney is necessary. If not, you will most likely be referred to an appropriate consumer, government or public service agency. We are a non-profit public service dedicated to serving your best interests.

Will I get an experienced attorney?

When the LRIS makes a referral, you can be assured that the attorney has been carefully screened. We make referrals from a roster of lawyers skilled in over 100 legal fields, including: family law, estate planning, landlord-tenant rights, labor-employment law, consumer law, real property, personal injury and corporate and business law. Our clients are surveyed following their consultation to ensure that we maintain quality service.

How much does it cost for an appointment with an attorney?

There is a \$35 administrative fee for the initial appointment. This entitles you to a half-hour consultation with the attorney. This fee can be paid by credit card, check or money order and must be received by our office before the attorney can be contacted to schedule the appointment. The fee is waived under certain circumstances. The LRIS provides free referrals for personal injury, workers' compensation and Social Security disability cases. However, the regular \$35 fee applies to medical and legal malpractice cases.

If I decide to hire the attorney, how much can I expect to pay?

You should discuss future fees and costs with the attorney during the initial consultation. It is important to understand how these fees and costs are determined and when they will need to be paid. The attorney will provide a written "fee agreement" that states what the services will cost.

What will I need for the initial consultation?

You should bring all relevant documents and information to your first appointment. Providing the attorney with a written chronology of events and a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of people involved in the matter will help the attorney understand your particular legal issue. Be prepared to explain your case completely and clearly.

Can I be referred to a mediator?

The Lawyer Referral & Information Service can refer you to a trained, highly qualified family law mediator. A 90-minute joint mediation session is arranged for both parties. The fee for this service is \$150. If further mediation is desired, the parties may make additional financial arrangements with the mediator directly. When you call, ask for information about our FLARe (Family Law Alternative Resolution) program.

Lawyer Referral & Information Service of the Contra Costa County Bar Association

The Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS) is a public service of the Contra Costa County Bar Association (CCCBA), a non-profit organization. Its purpose is to refer callers to the most appropriate resource for their legal needs.

More than 200 local attorneys participate in LRIS and represent experience in over 100 categories of law. LRIS attorneys must meet our experience qualifications, follow State Bar of California rules and guidelines and maintain current malpractice insurance.

The State Bar of California has certified that the CCCBA's LRIS meets the minimum standards for a lawyer referral service in California (Certification #0018). CCCBA's LRIS meets American Bar Association standards.

You may need a lawyer if you are:

- Buying or selling property
- Getting a divorce
- Being evicted
- Involved in an accident
- Injured at work
- Having problems with your employer
- Facing criminal charges
- Writing a will
- Filing for bankruptcy
- Establishing a corporation or partnership

Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS)

The Lawyer Referral & Information Service is a State Bar of California certified, American Bar Association approved public service of the CCCBA, a non-profit organization. Our goal is to provide you with a simple, low cost way to obtain legal information regarding your particular issue.

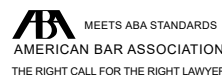
Our Lawyer Referral & Information Service offers you:

- A referral to an experienced attorney.
- An initial 30-minute consultation for a nominal fee.
- A free consultation if you have been injured or have a Social Security disability issue.
- A referral to appropriate non-legal assistance, if that's best for you.
- Skilled, screened and insured attorneys experienced in over 100 areas of the law.
- A referral to a trained, experienced family law mediator through our FLARe program.

A 30-minute consultation with an LRIS attorney may give you the information you need to make the best decision. Contact the LRIS today!

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a non-profit public service since 1978
serving Contra Costa County
State Bar Certified #0018



Lawyer Referral & Information Service



 **Contra Costa County Bar Association**

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