

## OBTAINING A FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION

Divorce, unpaid rent, unfair dismissal, etc. Looking for advice on a legal issue?  
Legal practitioners will advise you for free.



### What is a legal consultation ?

- This is receiving advice from a professional legal practitioner (often a lawyer).
- This gives you initial insight.
- But the lawyer or legal practitioner does not perform acts for you and does not initiate proceedings.

### How does a free legal consultation work ?

Legal consultations are provided on an on-call basis, mostly with an appointment.



The lawyer informs you about your rights and guides you on the first steps to take before any procedure (mediation for example), but does not accompany you before the courts

Anything you say is confidential.



You don't pay anything.



If you have any documents (written exchanges, letters, email, text messages, previous court decisions, etc.) concerning your legal questions, bring them to ensure optimal assistance.



You can ask a question regarding the law or seek advice on a specific legal problem from a volunteer legal practitioner.

In some offices, consultations are reserved for people on low incomes.

It's a quick appointment, about 15 to 20 minutes.



## Where can I get a free legal consultation ?

- **In the courts** : lawyers hold consultations at fixed times and on fixed days. Find a court near you (<https://www.justice.fr/recherche/annuaires>)
- **At your town hall** : you can obtain legal advice on certain days and at certain times with an appointment, and in particular you can be provided with a list of local associations that can help you settle everyday disputes.
- **At "Houses of Justice and Law" (*maisons de la justice et du droit - MJD*)**: present in large cities, they advise you and help you cope with your legal difficulties. Find an MJD near you (<http://www.annuaires.justice.gouv.fr/annuaires-12162/annuaire-des-maisons-de-justice-et-du-droit-21773.html>)
- **At Departmental Centres for Access to Law (CDAD)**, present in each department. Find a CDAD near you (<http://www.annuaires.justice.gouv.fr/annuaires-12162/conseils-departementaux-daces-au-droit-21771.html>)
- **At Law Access Points (*points d'accès au droit - PAD*)** : free and permanent reception locations close to you (in rural neighbourhoods and municipalities). Check with your town hall or find a PAD near you (<http://www.annuaires.justice.gouv.fr/annuaires-12162/annuaire-des-points-daces-au-droit-21772.html>)
- **At associations**
  - **Barreau de Paris Solidarité** (Paris Bar Pro Bono Service) holds consultation sessions :
    - ✓ at the premises of humanitarian associations (Secours Populaire, Médecin du Monde, Salvation Army, etc.).
    - ✓ aboard Barreau de Paris Solidarité buses parked at fixed times in Paris from Monday to Saturday (<https://www.barreausolidarite.org/nos-actions/bus-solidarite.html>).
    - ✓ at the student lawyers' Legal Clinic (<https://www.barreausolidarite.org/nos-actions/cliniques-juridiques.html>), under the supervision of volunteer lawyers, in Paris (every Thursday afternoon) and Issy-les-Moulineaux (every Tuesday afternoon). The consultations are aimed primarily at people suffering exclusion: <http://www.barreausolidarite.org> or 01 44 32 47 37.
  - **Droit d'urgence** association informs and assists persons suffering social exclusion to assert their rights: <http://www.droitsurgence.org> - The **Information Centres for the Rights of Women and Families (CIDFF)** offer legal advice (not only to women) on civil law, victim support, labour law, etc. : <http://www.infofemmes.com>
  - **Consumer associations** have hotlines all over France to resolve everyday disputes (housing, purchases, over-indebtedness, etc.) but often you have to join for a year (around €40 to €45). The website of the Ministry of Economy and Finance keeps an up-to-date list. (call to find out more about the days and times).

### And also, in Paris...

**Lawyers in the city** : every year, in October, you can consult free of charge **for one week**, with or without an appointment, the volunteer lawyers of the Paris Bar at various places in the capital, with the central point being the Parvis de l'Hôtel de Ville (City Hall Square).

### Information over the phone

- **3919** for legal issues related to violence against women.
- **Gisti (immigrant information and support group)**, for foreigners' rights, on **01 84 60 90 26**, telephone hotline Monday to Friday from 3pm to 6pm and Wednesday and Friday morning from 10am to noon.
- **Legal aid from legal expenses insurance** : If you have a legal expenses cover (check, it is sometimes included in your home insurance), you can get free legal advice.