

North Dakota Legal Needs Assessment for Civil Matters

Thank you for taking the time to complete this assessment! These questions have been put together in order for the North Dakota legal community to gain a better understanding of what legal needs exist throughout the state. With the information gained from this assessment, we hope to be better able to serve the legal needs of your community in the future.

Check the box or boxes that apply to you. If you need more space to explain an answer, go to the back pages of the packet. Do not put your name anywhere on this packet.

1. Have you had any legal needs in the past five years?
 No
 Do not know
 Yes

Housing Issues

2. In the past three years, have you lived in a house or apartment that you were renting from someone else?
If not, mark "No" and skip to question (19).
 No
 Yes
3. Did you and the landlord complete a Check-in sheet before you moved in? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (5).*
 No
 Yes
4. Did you agree with the comments made on the Check-in sheet?
 No
 Yes
5. Upon leaving the rental property, did you receive all or part of your security deposit?
 No
 Yes
6. Upon leaving the rental property, did the landlord provide you with an itemized list stating what amounts were subtracted from the security deposit?
 No
 Yes
7. In the past three years, has a landlord done any of the following?
 Threatened you with eviction from the rental property
 Actually evicted you from the rental property
 Other harmful action → Please explain:
 None

8. In the past three years, has a landlord threatened to evict you because 911 or law enforcement was called to respond to a domestic violence incident?
- No
 - Yes
9. Did any of the following unsafe or unhealthy conditions exist at the rental property? *If not, mark "None" and skip to question (12).*
- No hot water
 - No electricity
 - No working plumbing
 - Unattended problems with cockroaches
 - Unattended problems with mice or rats
 - Front or back door locks that did not work
 - Broken or cracked windows
 - Peeling paint
 - Mold
 - Other repairs that remained unfixed by the landlord → Please specify:
 - None
10. Did you notify the landlord of that condition?
- No
 - Yes
11. Did the landlord fix the problem(s)?
- No
 - Do not know
 - Yes
12. In the past three years, did you have any serious disagreements with a landlord or public housing authority regarding any of the following?
- Amount of rent
 - Date of rent payments
 - Terms of the lease
 - Return of the security deposit
 - None
13. In the past three years, have you been denied government housing assistance?
- No
 - Yes → Please explain:
14. In the past three years, have you had a dispute with a local housing authority? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (16).*
- No
 - Yes → What was the dispute?

15. Was that dispute resolved in your favor?

- No
- Yes → Please explain:

16. During the past five years, has a landlord refused to rent to you or treated you unfairly once he or she learned that you received housing assistance?

- No
- Yes

17. During the past three years, has a landlord refused to rent to you or treated you unfairly because of your race?

- No
- Do not know
- Yes → Please explain:

18. During the past three years, have you experienced unwanted sexual comments or propositions from your landlord?

- No
- Do not know
- Yes → Please explain:

19. Have you ever been without a place to live during the past five years?

- No
- Yes

20. During the past year, was your home mortgage foreclosed on?

- No
- Yes → Please explain:

21. Have you ever been pressured to take on additional mortgage debt at unfair terms?

- No
- Yes → Please explain:

Family/Domestic Issues

22. Have you ever had difficulty changing your name after a marriage or divorce?

- No
- Yes

23. During the past three years, have you sought assistance due to the break-up of a marriage or live-in relationship? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (25).*

- No
- Yes

24. Where did you seek assistance during the break-up, separation, or divorce?
- An attorney, Legal Services of North Dakota, or the UND Law Clinic Education Program
 - Local police or State troopers
 - A community organization (E.g., Salvation Army, Violence Intervention Center, etc.)
 - Domestic violence / rape crisis center
 - A shelter
 - Your church
 - Other → Please explain:
25. In the past three years, have you been involved in a dispute about child support payments? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (27).*
- No
 - Yes → Who was involved in the dispute?
26. Was the dispute about any of the following situations?
- The amount of the child support payment
 - When the child support payment is to be made
 - Who the child's father is
 - Other → Please explain:
27. In the past three years, have you been involved in a dispute about child custody?
- No
 - Yes → Please explain:
28. In the past three years, were you the victim of domestic violence? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (30).*
- No
 - Do not know
 - Yes → Please explain:
29. What type of abuse occurred?
- Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Emotional abuse (E.g., forced social isolation, threats without physical abuse, etc.)
 - Stalking
 - A combination of abuses → Please explain:
30. In the past three years, have you been referred to a domestic violence or rape crisis center?
- No
 - Yes → Who referred you?
31. In the past year, have you sought a restraining order against any member of your household or an intimate partner? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (33).*
- No
 - Yes

32. Have you had any problems enforcing that restraining order?

- No
- Yes → Please explain:

33. In the past year, have you thought about getting a restraining order against any member of your household or an intimate partner?

- No
- Yes

Elderly Issues

34. In the past year, have you or someone you know been in a situation where an elderly relative or close friend was being physically abused or neglected?

- No
- Do not know
- Yes → Please explain:

35. In the past year, have you or someone you know been in a situation where an elderly relative or close friend has been taken advantage of financially?

- No
- Do not know
- Yes → Please explain:

36. In the past year, have you or someone you know sought legal help for an elderly relative or close friend who could not handle his or her own affairs? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (39).*

- No
- Yes

37. What type of problems were you or that elderly relative or friend having?

- Trouble managing financial affairs
- Trouble managing medical affairs
- Other → Please explain:

38. Have you or that elderly relative or close friend done any of the following?

- Drafted a Durable Power of Attorney, or a Power of Attorney
- Drafted a Health Care Directive, or Living Will
- Had a Guardian appointed to take care of that person's affairs
- Sought a change of guardianship that was already in place
- No
- Do not know

Wills and Estate Issues

39. Do you currently have a valid will? *If so, mark “Yes” and skip to question (41).*

- No
- Do not know
- Yes

40. If you do not have a valid will, do you feel the need to provide in advance for a time when you might not be able to make important decisions about your finances, medical treatment, or other important matters, by signing a document like a Power of Attorney or Living Will?

- No
- Do not know
- Yes

41. Do you currently have any of the following documents for your own affairs?

- Power of Attorney for financial matters
- Health Care Directive or Living Will for your medical wishes
- Any other document about your property, finances, or medical preferences → Please explain:
- None

Work and Retirement Issues

42. In the past three years, were you denied a job based on any of the following types of discrimination?

- Gender
- Race or ethnicity
- Citizenship (not a U.S. citizen)
- Age
- Physical disability
- Mental disability
- Marital status
- Other → Please explain:
- No

43. In the past three years were you denied any of the following worker benefits?

- Unemployment compensation
- Worker’s compensation
- Access to job training
- Earned overtime pay
- Earned vacation pay
- Private insurance compensation
- Other → Please explain:

44. Have you had problems collecting the amount of overtime pay you were owed?

- No
- Yes

45. Were you paid less than minimum wage (\$5.15) at a job during the past three years?

- No
- Do not know
- Yes → What type of job?

46. Have you had trouble collecting money owed to you after you quit or were fired from a job? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (48).*

- No
- Yes

47. What type of pay did you have trouble collecting?

- Earned overtime pay
- Earned vacation pay
- The last few days' wages you were owed
- Other → Please explain:

48. Have you had trouble with an employer not withholding or properly paying any of the following?

- Social Security
- Income taxes
- Child support payments
- Union dues
- Railroad retirement
- Health insurance premiums
- Other insurance premiums → Please explain:
- Other → Please explain:
- No

49. In the past three years, have you been denied a promotion or a raise at work due to an employer discriminating based on any of the following?

- Gender
- Race or ethnicity
- Citizenship (not a U.S. citizen)
- Age
- Physical disability
- Mental disability
- Marital status
- Other → Please explain:
- No

50. In the past three years, have you been disciplined or fired from a job due to an employer discriminating based on any of the following?

- Gender
- Race or ethnicity
- Citizenship (not a U.S. citizen)
- Age
- Physical disability
- Mental disability
- Marital status
- Other → Please explain:
- No

51. During the past three years, have you experienced any difficulties on the job involving sexual harassment or workplace harassment? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (53).*

- No
- Do not know
- Yes

52. Who was harassing you?

- A coworker
- A manager or assistant manager
- An employee in a different department
- An executive director
- Other → Please explain:

53. During the past three years, have you been fired from a job due to problems involving domestic violence?

- No
- Yes → Please Explain:

54. During the past three years, have you experienced any of the following major difficulties on the job?

- Serious union problems
- Retaliation from the employer for organizing other workers
- Retaliation from the employer for reporting work violations of other employees
- Retaliation from the employer for reporting violations of the company (whistle blowing)
- Retaliation from the employer for reporting cases of sexual harassment
- Unsafe working conditions
- Unhealthy working conditions
- Other → Please explain:
- None

Government Assistance Issues

55. In the past three years, did you apply for any of the following government benefits?

- Welfare (E.g., TANF, WIC, etc.)
- Social Security Disability Insurance
- Supplemental Security Income
- Worker's Compensation
- Unemployment
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Childcare benefits
- Housing assistance (HUD Choice Voucher Program or Project-based subsidies)
- Other → Please explain:
- No

56. In the past three years did you receive any of the following government benefits? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (58).*

- Welfare (E.g., TANF, WIC, etc.)
- Social Security Disability Insurance
- Supplemental Security Income
- Worker's Compensation
- Unemployment
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Childcare benefits
- Housing assistance (HUD Choice Voucher Program or Project-based subsidies)
- Other → Please explain:
- No

57. Did you have any of the following difficulties with the benefit program?

- Being expected to meet unreasonable requirements to get the benefit
- Not being given information about how the application process works
- Not being given information about how to file a complaint with the agency
- Not receiving notice of an agency decision regarding your benefit
- Not being given information about how to appeal a decision of the agency
- Not being able to get a hearing
- Being treated unfairly in appealing your case
- Being denied an extension of a time limit
- Being denied access to your file
- Receiving papers that were not written in your primary language
- Other → Please explain:
- No

58. In the past three years were you involuntarily terminated from any of the following benefit programs? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (60).*

- Welfare (E.g., TANF, WIC, etc.)
- Social Security Disability Insurance
- Supplemental Security Income
- Worker's Compensation
- Unemployment
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Childcare benefits
- Housing assistance (HUD Choice Voucher Program or Project-based subsidies)
- Other → Please explain:
- No

59. If you were involuntarily terminated from a government benefit, did you attend a hearing?

- No
- Yes

Health Care and Insurance Issues

60. In the past year, did you have problems getting medical help for you or a dependant? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (62).*

- No
- Yes → Please explain:

61. For which of the following reasons were you unable to receive medical help?

- No local health care facility existed
- The health care facility could not serve your needs
- You do not have medical insurance
- The health care facility refused to accept Medicaid
- The health care facility refused to help you because of your race or ethnicity
- The health care facility refused to help you because you could not pay
- Other → Please explain:

62. During the past three years, have you had any serious problems involving any of the following types of insurance? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (64).*

- Life insurance
- Medical insurance
- Car insurance
- Home insurance (including flood or fire insurance, etc.)
- Other → Please explain:
- No

63. Which of the following problems were involved?

- Not being able to get insurance
- Not being able to afford insurance
- Not understanding what type of insurance was needed
- Having an insurance policy cancelled without explanation from the insurance company
- Having a serious dispute about payments
- Having a serious dispute about claims under the policy
- Having a serious dispute about what the policy was worth
- Other → Please explain:

Personal Rights

64. In the past three years, did you experience any of the following types of harassment? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (66).*

- Harassment by local police or state troopers
- Having personal belongings taken from your home by the police without good reason
- Having personal belongings taken from your car by the police without good reason
- Having personal belongings taken from your business or place of employment by the police without good reason
- Having personal belongings taken from your body or clothes by the police without good reason
- Other → Please explain:
- No

65. Did the incident involve any of the following?

- Unreasonable search of your home
- Unreasonable seizure of any personal property from your home
- Unreasonable search of your car
- Unreasonable seizure of any personal property from your car
- Police harassment
- Physical abuse by the police
- Other → Please explain:

Immigration Issues

66. Were you born as a United States citizen? *If so, mark "Yes" and skip to question (73).*

- No
- Yes

67. Were you born outside the United States, as a citizen of another country?

- No
- Yes

68. Are you currently a United States citizen?

- No
- Do not know → Please explain:
- Yes

69. What is your immigration status?

- Student visa
- Work visa
- Naturalized
- Refugee
- Asylum
- Undocumented
- Other → Please explain:

70. In the past three years, have you had any of the following immigration problems?

- Problems becoming a United States citizen
- Problems becoming a legal alien
- Problems getting a green card
- Problems bringing a family member into the United States
- Problems finding a job because you are not a United States citizen
- Problems due to domestic violence → Please explain:
- Other → Please explain:
- No

71. In the past three years, have you had any of the following immigration problems?

- Problems getting political asylum
- Being threatened with deportation
- Problems receiving amnesty
- Other → Please explain:
- No

72. As an immigrant, have you been taken advantage of by an employer or by a landlord?

- No
- Do not know
- Yes → Please explain:

Consumer Issues

73. During the past five years, have you entered into a lease-to-own agreement for electronics or furniture?

If not, mark "No" and skip to question (76).

- No
- Yes

74. Have you had trouble repaying that lease-to-own agreement?

- No
- Yes

75. Have you had that property from the lease-to-own company repossessed?

- No
- Yes

76. Have you ever been pressured to buy a product with an unreasonably high interest rate (20% +)?
 No
 Yes

77. During the past five years, have you any of the following problems with creditors or debt collectors?
 Default judgment (I.e., You did not go to the court hearing.)
 Court ordered judgment (I.e., You did go to the court hearing and lost.)
 Creditor harassment
 Debt sent to a collections agency
 Repossessed property
 Other → Please explain:
 No

78. During the past five years, have you been able to obtain credit (credit cards, loans, etc.)?
 No
 Yes

Education Issues

79. Do you have school-aged children? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (92).*
 No
 Yes

80. Do you know what educational rights you have as a parent?
 No
 Do not know
 Yes

81. Do you know what educational rights your child has as a student?
 No
 Do not know
 Yes

82. Has your child been bullied or harassed at school in the past three years? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (85).*
 No
 Yes

83. Did you contact school personnel about the bullying or harassment?
 No
 Yes

84. Did the school take any action to address the problem?
 No
 Do not know
 Yes → What action was taken and what was the outcome of that action?

85. Do you have a child with special needs? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (92).*

- No
- Do not know
- Yes

86. Does your special needs child have an IEP plan or 504 plan? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (89).*

- No
- Yes

87. Has someone explained what rights you have as the parent of a special needs child? (E.g., right to attend all meetings, right to be actively involved in decision-making, knowledge of the complaint process, etc.)

- No
- Yes

88. Do you understand your parental rights under the IEP or 504 plan?

- No
- Yes

89. Have you had any problems with school personnel regarding educational services for your child with special needs? *If not, mark "No" and skip to question (91).*

- No
- Yes

90. Please explain those problems and what school personnel did or did not do to address the problem.

91. Would you like to be more informed about parent and student educational rights?

- No
- Yes

Recent Legal Assistance

92. In the past three years, have you had problems receiving or maintaining legal assistance?

- No
- Do not know
- Yes → Please explain:

93. Which of the following have you asked for assistance from in the past five years?

- UND Law Clinic
- Legal Services of North Dakota
- North Dakota State Bar Volunteer Lawyer Program
- Northwest Minnesota Legal Services
- Community Violence Intervention Center
- Public defender
- Migrant Legal Services
- UND Northern Plains Indian Law Center
- Private attorney
- Other → Please explain:
- None

94. Which of the following have you received legal assistance from in the past five years?

- UND Law Clinic
- Legal Services of North Dakota
- North Dakota State Bar Volunteer Lawyer Program
- Northwest Minnesota Legal Services
- Community Violence Intervention Center
- Public defender
- Migrant Legal Services
- UND Northern Plains Indian Law Center
- Private attorney
- Other → Please explain:
- None

What county do you live in? _____

What city do you live in? _____

If you live on an Indian Reservation, what Reservation? _____

Please check the boxes that apply to you. Confidentiality will be ensured.

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

What is your marital status?

- Single
- Married
- Divorced or Separated
- Widowed

What age range do you fit in?

- 18 – 25
- 26 – 34
- 35 – 45
- 46 – 60
- 60 +

What is your Annual Income?

- 12,250 or less
- 16,500 or less
- 20,750 or less
- 25,000 or less
- 29,250 or less
- 33,500 or less
- 37,750 or less
- 42,000 or less
- More than 42,000

What is your race?

- Native American
- African American
- Caucasian
- Asian American
- Hispanic / Latino
- Other _____

What level or education have you completed?

- No High School diploma or G.E.D.
- High School or G.E.D.
- Vocational certificate or degree
- Associates degree
- Bachelors degree
- Masters degree or PhD

If you were born in a country other than the United States, what country?

How many people live in your household?

What age ranges do the members of your household fit in? *Mark all that apply.*

- Under the age of 18
- 18 – 64
- 65 and older

Thank you very much for your participation!!

Please return to:

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