

In furtherance of the Kane County Law Library & Self Help Legal Centers mission of promoting open and equal access to legal information, and supporting the vision of creating informed consumers with realistic expectations of the legal system, the “Lawyer in the Library” program was envisioned and instituted in November 2010. Through this program, volunteer attorneys provide document review, legal coaching, and referrals for qualifying low income individuals.

“Lawyer in the Library” Policy

Attorneys volunteering for the “Lawyer in the Library” (LIL) program represent individuals on a strictly limited basis. Volunteering attorneys agree to assist with varying case types. The program’s services are limited to legal coaching, document review, and referrals. The attorneys will not appear in court on an individual’s behalf and are not obligated to extend representation beyond this limited consultation ([IL Rules of Professional Conduct 6.5](#)). Library staff will not release the volunteering attorneys’ names prior to the appointment and will not schedule individuals with specific attorneys. The staff of the Kane County Law Library & Self Help Legal Center has the right to deny LIL service to anyone who is disruptive or disrespectful to the volunteering attorney or library staff. Prior to consultation, a *Limited Representation Disclaimer* must be signed by both the individual seeking services and the volunteering attorney.

Volunteering attorneys are asked to cover a specific time shift. For the convenience of the volunteering attorney, all efforts are made to fill the shift in order of the earliest appointment to the latest. In cases of cancelations, the attorney will be notified of such. If the cancelations are in the middle of a shift, the library staff strives to fill those appointments, but if unable to do so the volunteering attorney is asked to be available for walk-ins.

Attorneys volunteering under this program are responsible for complying with [IL Rule of Professional Conduct 6.5](#)

Those qualifying for assistance through the Lawyer in the Library program must meet specific criteria.

- Qualifying individuals must be of low income and sign a “*Certification of Finances*” acknowledging that they meet specific economic guidelines as set forth by the volunteering agencies (Kane County Bar Association, Administer Justice)
- The legal matter(s) for which the individual is seeking assistance must be occurring in Kane County.
- Individuals may not utilize the “Lawyer in the Library” service more than three times for the same legal matter.

Individuals who qualify for the Lawyer in the Library service must leave a ten dollar (\$10) refundable cash deposit when scheduling an appointment. S/he acknowledges through signature and initials that the cash deposit will be forfeited if s/he misses the appointment without at least twenty-four (24) hour advance notice to the Kane County Law Library & Self Help Legal Center. Library staff may refund the deposit at their discretion in extenuating circumstances.