



Hawai'i Judiciary Volunteer Court Navigator Pilot Program

This Program is designed to assist self-represented litigants (those without an attorney) gain access to justice. The initial focus of the Program is on landlord-tenant and debt collection cases. Most individuals appearing in these cases do not have attorneys. Volunteer Court Navigators will experience the reward of assisting others *at an extremely stressful time in their lives*. The Program also provides an excellent educational experience for those interested in learning more about our system of justice.

Court Navigators are trained to provide the following assistance:

1. Preliminary discussions with Self-Represented Litigants (SRLs) to determine if there are any special needs (sight, hearing, language, etc.), learn of special concerns, and explain the court process.
2. Assist SRLs in using courthouse computers to obtain information and fill out court forms.
3. Help SRLs find information and an attorney, if one wants to hire an attorney.
4. Help SRLs find resources in the courthouse.
5. Description of court protocol.
6. Description of the various roles of those who work in the courtroom (judge, court clerk, bailiff, etc.).
7. Accompaniment during courthouse hallway discussions solely for the purpose of taking notes and assisting with factual inquiries and scheduling.
8. Accompaniment during the mediation process solely for the purpose of observing and taking notes.
9. Accompaniment in court, including providing notes or reminders to SRLs about court proceedings.
10. Taking notes during court conferences or hearings so that SRLs understand what was said or decided in court.
11. Providing factual information when asked a direct factual question by a judge.
12. When necessary, providing information concerning available social services or other resources.

Court Navigators are *not* permitted to provide legal advice or to participate in settlement discussions and do not provide personal advice and shall not perform any service that constitutes the practice of law. Court Navigators do *not* provide litigants with their personal contact information.

Court Navigator training sessions and on-the-job training will be provided for all volunteers. Training will also consist of observing court proceedings and meeting with judges and court staff to discuss the in-court process.

Court Navigators are only asked to serve when their personal schedules permit them to do so.

Are you interested in serving as a Volunteer Court Navigator? Questions? Please call:

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