

## LEGAL SERVICES

### State Bar of Wisconsin: Lawyer Referral & Information Service

608-257-4666, [wisbar.org](http://wisbar.org)

LRIS is a public service to help identify the most appropriate resource for consumers with legal problems.

### Community Justice Incorporated

214 N. Hamilton St., Suite 101, Madison  
608-204-9642, [communityjusticeinc.org](http://communityjusticeinc.org)

CJI works with low-income families and individuals to secure fair representation in court, protecting the legal rights of those who would otherwise face the system alone.

### Elder Benefits Specialist

Dane County Area Agency on Aging  
2865 N. Sherman Ave, Madison WI 53704  
608-240-7400

The Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) Program is administered by the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of Dane County and located/operated in partnership with the Dane County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). The program provides free legal services and advocacy for adults age 60+ residing in Dane County. Their services are specifically targeted to rural, low-income and minority older adults who have not traditionally had access to legal assistance.

### Grams & Christoffersen, S.C.

Eric D. Christoffersen, J.D.

194 W. Main Street, Stoughton, WI 53589  
608-662-0440, [dfgrams.com](http://dfgrams.com)

Complimentary consultations for estate planning, elder law, probate, and estate administration services. [edc@dfgrams.com](mailto:edc@dfgrams.com)

### Fons Law Office, [fonslawoffice.com](http://fonslawoffice.com)

Mary C. Fons 608-873-1270  
500 S. Page Street, Stoughton, WI 53589  
Legal service practice limited to consumer law, debt collection, harassment and deceptive sales practices.

### Legal Action of Wisconsin, Elder Right Project

744 Williamson St. Suite 200

Madison, WI 53703

855-947-2529, [legalaction.org](http://legalaction.org)

Free civil legal aid; income & asset qualifications may apply.

### Long Term Care Ombudsman

WI Board on Aging & Long Term Care

1402 Pankratz St., Madison WI 53704

1-800-815-0015, [boaltc@ltc.state.wi.us](mailto:boaltc@ltc.state.wi.us)

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/ltcombud.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/ltcombud.htm)

Working with agencies, residents and families the Long Term Care ombudsman investigates and resolves problems, provides information, referral and consultation and works with licensing, certification, and other enforcement agencies to improve the quality of care in long-term facilities and programs.

### National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), [naela.org](http://naela.org)

A professional organization of attorneys dedicated to elder law.

### Neighborhood Law Clinic

Villager Mall, 2238 South Park St.

Madison, WI 53713

608-265-2441, [law.wisc.edu/eji/nlc](http://law.wisc.edu/eji/nlc)

The Neighborhood Law Clinic provides free legal service to Dane County residents and the surrounding area. NLC can help with legal problems involving housing, employment, and public benefits. It is part of the University of Wisconsin Law School -- our clients receive legal services from law students who are supervised by attorneys.

### Wisconsin Free Legal Answers

[wi.freelegalanswers.org](http://wi.freelegalanswers.org)

A virtual legal advice clinic in which qualifying users post civil legal questions at no cost to be answered by pro bono attorneys licensed in their state.

For more information on these and other area services please contact the Stoughton Area Senior Center:  
248 W. Main Street, Stoughton WI, 53589 608-873-8585 [stoughtonseniorcenter.com](http://stoughtonseniorcenter.com)

## Choosing an Elder Law Attorney

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Elder law encompasses many different fields of law (i.e. preservation and transfer of assets, use of durable powers of attorney for financial management or health care decision-making, Medicare, Social Security, etc.). You will want to hire an attorney who regularly handles matters in the area of law of concern to your case and who will know enough about the other fields to question whether actions taken might be affected by other areas of law.

Take the time to interview prospective attorneys. Not every attorney is right for each client. The attorney/client relationship must be built on mutual trust and understanding. The following is advice from the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), [naela.org](http://naela.org).

### Before Choosing and Meeting with an Attorney

- Does his or her practice emphasize a particular area of law?
- How long has the attorney been in practice? In this field of law?
- Is there a fee for the first consultation, and if so how much is it?
- Given the nature of the case, what information should you bring to the initial consultation?

### During the Initial Consultation

At your appointment you will be asked to give an overview of the reason you are seeking assistance, so be sure to organize and bring all the information pertinent to your situation. After you have explained your situation, ask:

- What will it take to resolve it? Are there alternate courses of action?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of each possibility?
- Who will handle your case? Has that attorney handled matters of this kind in the past?
- If a trial may be involved, does the attorney do trial work? If not, who does? And how many trials has he or she handled?
- How are fees computed?
- What is the estimate of the cost to resolve your problem and how long will it take?

### Get It In Writing

Once you decide to hire the attorney, ask that your arrangement be put in writing. The letter or formal contract should spell out what services the attorney will perform for you and what the fee and expense arrangement will be.

### Make It a Good Experience

Asking the above questions will not only help you determine who to hire, but it will help establish a relationship of trust and open communication with the attorney you do select.