
a guide to

Legal Resources



ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Tony Palumbo, County Attorney

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Dear Anoka County Neighbors,

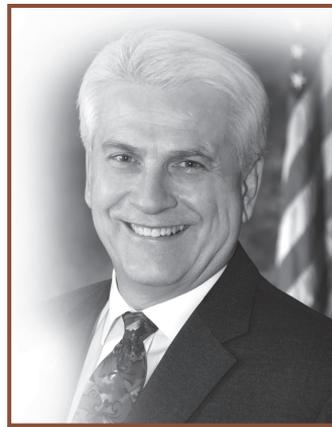
The Anoka County Attorney's Office strives to protect the public and contribute to a well-governed community by prosecuting criminals, protecting vulnerable children and adults, and supporting victims.

In addition, the County Attorney is the legal advisor to the County Board of Commissioners, county officials, and county departments. However, our office cannot provide legal advice to individual residents or groups.

Sometimes, a person or family needs help to work through a legal problem. Although I am unable to help with individual legal problems, as County Attorney I want to offer this list of local resources to assist you in addressing your legal issues.

Sincerely,

Tony Palumbo



Tony Palumbo
Anoka County Attorney

About Our Office

The Anoka County Attorney's Office is made up of more than 100 employees who work together to protect the public's safety and common interests. Our office is divided into six divisions.

CIVIL DIVISION: Provides legal services to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners, county officials, and county departments. (763) 324-5550

→ *PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT:* Provides legal services to the Anoka County Social Services and Mental Health Department in the areas of civil commitment, adult protection, adult and child foster care licensing, and family child care licensing. (763) 324-5550

CRIMINAL DIVISION: Prosecutes adults charged with serious crimes and juveniles charged as adults. (763) 324-5450

FAMILY LAW DIVISION: Works with Child Support Services to establish paternity and child support obligations, enforce these obligations, review child support orders, and other tasks. (763) 324-5550

JUVENILE DIVISION: Prosecutes juveniles charged with crimes, and protects vulnerable children and seeks court action to provide permanent, safe environments for children who are neglected or abused. (763) 324-5450

VICTIM/WITNESS SERVICES: Provides supportive services to help victims and witnesses of crimes, and assists them as they make their way through the criminal justice system. (763) 324-5540

INVESTIGATION DIVISION: Investigates white collar crimes, financial exploitation of the elderly, welfare fraud, liability claims, and internal personnel matters. (763) 324-5450

Seeking Legal Help

There are two types of legal cases: criminal and civil.

A criminal case involves action taken by the government against a person who has broken a law.

Civil cases involve people, private companies, or the government bringing legal action against other people, private companies, or the government.

FIND A LAWYER: To find an attorney, you can browse directories at mnfindalawyer.com, mnlegalservices.org, lawhelpmn.org, or anokabar.com. Additional resources are listed at mncourts.gov under “Help Topics” and “Find A Lawyer.”

JUDICARE: If you have a civil case and you cannot afford an attorney, you may qualify for Judicare’s services. You must be an Anoka County resident. Information at anokajudicare.org or (763) 783-4970.

CENTRAL MINNESOTA LEGAL SERVICES: CMLS provides free legal help to low-income individuals and families on civil legal matters. For information, visit centralmnlegal.org or call (612) 334-5970.

PUBLIC DEFENDER: If you have been charged with a crime, you may apply for a public defender at your first court appearance. Eligibility is based on your ability to pay. For information, contact the MN Board of Public Defense at pubdef.state.mn.us or (612) 349-2565, or the Anoka County Public Defender’s Office at (763) 422-3350.

COURT ADMINISTRATOR: For complaints or concerns about the way a judge presided over a court hearing or trial, contact the 10th Judicial District Court Administrator at (763) 279-0179.

LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BOARD: To make a complaint about attorney misconduct or ethics, call (800) 657-3601 or (651) 296-3952, or visit lprb.mncourts.gov.

LAW LIBRARY: The Anoka County Law Library, located on the first floor of the courthouse, offers legal research materials and reference assistance. The library also hosts regular Family Law Clinics, where you can get free legal advice. For information, call (763) 324-5560.

Resources for Personal Issues

ADULT PROTECTION: For general information and resources, visit elderjusticemn.org. To report abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of elderly or vulnerable adults, call the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center at 844-880-1574 (toll free).

CHILD SUPPORT: For general questions, call the Anoka County Economic Assistance Call Center at (763) 324-2420 or visit the Minnesota Department of Human Services website: dhs.state.mn.us. For direct access to case information, use the Minnesota Child Support Online website: www.childsupport.dhs.state.mn.us.

COMMITMENTS: To begin a commitment proceeding for mental illness or chemical dependency, contact Anoka County Pre-Petition Screening at (763) 324-1420.

DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT: For concerns regarding harassment or discrimination, contact the Minnesota Department of Human Rights at (651) 539-1100 or visit mn.gov/mdhr.

FAMILY VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT: Victims of domestic abuse or sexual assault can call a 24-hour helpline operated by Alexandra House (763) 780-2330. To find a local shelter, call the Minnesota Domestic Violence Crisis line at (866) 223-1111. In an emergency, call 9-1-1.

MEDIATION: Mediation is a way to settle disputes — including neighborhood, commercial, family, or public issues — without court involvement. For help or information, contact Mediation Services for Anoka County at (763) 422-8878 or visit mediationservice.org.

ORDER FOR PROTECTION/RESTRAINING ORDER: You can apply for a domestic abuse Order for Protection without an attorney by contact-ing Anoka County Court at (763) 760-6700. Additional resources are also available through Alexandra House (763) 780-2330.

UNITED WAY 2-1-1: This 24-hour information and referral line can help you connect with resources for food, housing, employment, transportation, health services and more — in or out of Anoka County. Call 2-1-1 from any phone. More information at gtcuw.org.

Consumer & Miscellaneous Resources

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE: To inquire about consumer laws and protection, or to file a complaint against a business, call (651) 296-3353 or (800) 657-3787, or visit www.ag.state.mn.us.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU: To find information on a business or to lodge a complaint, visit bbb.org or call (651) 699-1111.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY: For driver services, call (651) 297-3298. For vehicle services, call (651) 297-2126. For more information, visit dps.mn.gov.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: For information related to hunting and fishing regulation, contact the DNR at (651) 296-6157 or (888) 646-6367, or visit dnr.state.mn.us.

LABOR STANDARDS: For information on working conditions, minimum wage, child labor laws, worker's compensation, and other labor standards, or to file a complaint, call the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry at (651) 284-5070 or visit dli.mn.gov/laborlaw.asp.

FEE ARBITRATION BOARD: To file a complaint against an attorney in Anoka County for excessive fees, contact the Anoka County Bar Association at anokabar.com or anoka@anokabar.com.

INTERPRETERS: If you speak limited or no English, or if you are hearing impaired, you have a right to an interpreter in court. For information, call the MN Judicial Branch Court Interpreter Program at (651) 297-5300 or visit mncourts.gov and select "Help Topics," "Court Interpreter Program."

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES: For general questions regarding city powers, such as zoning, ordinances, and city council authority, call (651) 281-1200 or (800) 925-1122, or visit lmc.org.

TENANT/LANDLORD: For information on tenant and landlord regulations, visit ag.state.mn.us or contact the Minnesota Attorney General's Office at (651) 296-3353 (Twin Cities metro) or (800) 657-3787 (outside the Twin Cities); TTY: (651) 297-7206 or (800) 366-4812. Information can also be found at mncourts.gov under "Help Topics" and "Landlord and Tenant Issues."

Victim Rights

The goal of the Anoka County Victim/Witness Services unit is to provide victims and witnesses with the supportive services and assistance they may need in dealing with the crime itself and the ensuing the criminal justice process.

Victims and witnesses have the right to:

- Accurate information
- Be free from intimidation
- Be informed about reimbursement for financial losses
- Be notified of plea negotiations
- Be notified of changes in court scheduling
- Demand a speedy trial
- A separate court waiting area
- Be present at sentencing and have the opportunity to make a victim impact statement
- Request notification of the offender's release
- Expect a minimum of time and inconvenience as a witness

Anoka County Attorney's Office

Victim/Witness Services

(763) 324-5540

victimwitness@co.anoka.mn.us

Resolving Small Claims

Conciliation Court, or Small Claims Court, allows residents to bring action against people or businesses before a judge without complicated procedures, high court costs, or attorney’s fees. The court will hear claims for monetary damages, losses, or debts up to \$15,000.

Claims may be filed in person at the Anoka County Courthouse or by calling the Deputy of Conciliation Court and requesting the forms. In order to file with the court, the forms must be notarized and the filing fee must be paid.

The court’s jurisdiction is usually limited to Anoka County. Court Administration staff will notify the involved parties of the date and time of the hearing once it is scheduled.

At the hearing, complainants should explain to the judge, in a clear, logical manner, why the defendant owes them the amount they are claiming. Complainants should be able to provide documents and/or witnesses at the hearing, to support their claim.

A judge decides whether any losses may be recovered. It is up to the person who wins a judgment to collect the money from the losing party.

Anoka County Courthouse
2100 3rd Avenue, Anoka, MN 55303

Conciliation Court information
(763) 760-6801

Online information
mncourts.gov (Click on “Help Topics”)
anokacounty.us/courts (Click on “Services”)

City Directory

For questions concerning the prosecution of misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors, city ordinance violations, or matters involving municipal government, contact the city to request the city attorney.

ANDOVER:
(763) 755-5100
www.ci.andover.mn.us

ANOKA:
(763) 576-2700
www.ci.anoka.mn.us

BETHEL:
(763) 434-4366
www.bethelmn.govoffice2.com

BLAINE:
(763) 784-6700
www.blainemn.gov

CENTERVILLE:
(651) 429-3232
www.centervillemn.com

CIRCLE PINES:
(763) 784-5898
www.ci.circle-pines.mn.us

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS:
(763) 706-3600
www.ci.columbia-heights.mn.us

COLUMBUS:
(651) 464-3120
www.ci.columbus.mn.us

COON RAPIDS:
(763) 755-2880
www.ci.coon-rapids.mn.us

EAST BETHEL:
(763) 367-7840
www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us

FRIDLEY:
(763) 571-3450
www.ci.fridley.mn.us

HAM LAKE:
(763) 434-9555
www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us

HILLTOP:
(763) 571-2023
www.hilltop.govoffice.com

LEXINGTON:
(763) 784-2792
www.ci.lexington.mn.us

LINO LAKES:
(651) 982-2400
www.ci.lino-lakes.mn.us

NOWTHEN:
(763) 441-1347
www.nowthenmn.govoffice2.com

OAK GROVE:
(763) 404-7000
www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us

RAMSEY:
(763) 427-1410
www.ci.ramsey.mn.us

SPRING LAKE PARK:
(763) 784-6491
www.slpmmn.org

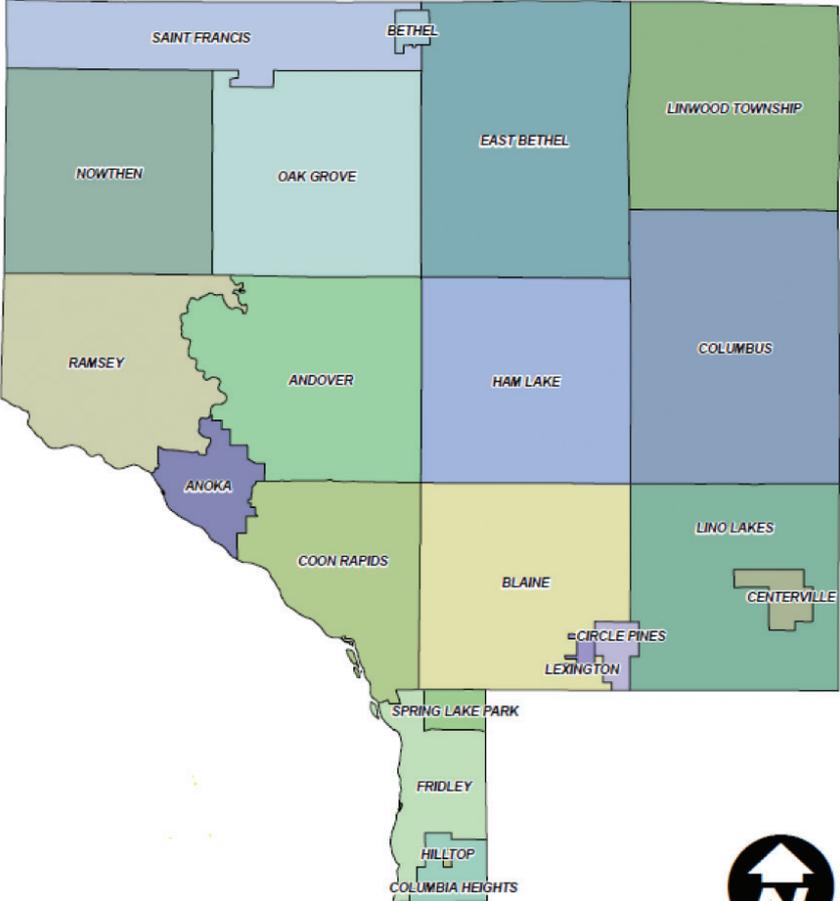
ST. FRANCIS:
(763) 753-2630
stfrancismn.org

LINWOOD TOWNSHIP:

For civil matters, contact the city attorney (651) 462-2812
www.linwoodtownship.govoffice.com

For criminal matters, contact the Anoka County Attorney's Office
(763) 324-5450

Anoka County, Minnesota



Who we are

The County Attorney is an elected official who provides leadership to the office in the fulfillment of its duties. This office:

- Prosecutes adult felony crimes that occur within the county
- Prosecutes juvenile crimes that occur within the county
- Provides legal counsel to the County Board of Commissioners and county departments
- Represents the county in civil claims
- Initiates legal actions to protect abused/neglected children and vulnerable adults, assists in child support enforcement, and handle mental health commitments, including sexually dangerous persons
- Provides crime prevention initiatives that help create a healthy and safe community

The mission of the Anoka County Attorney's Office is to pursue justice, advocate for citizens' rights, and lead the community by focusing on crime prevention and fair governance.

Contact Us

We are located in the Anoka County Government Center, at the corner of Main Street and 3rd Avenue in the City of Anoka.

2100 3rd Avenue, Suite 720
Anoka, Minnesota 55303

(763) 324-5550

anokacounty.us/attorney

attorney@co.anoka.mn.us



Attorney County Attorney
TONY PALUMBO

Justice, Advocacy, Prevention.