



ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION  
FAIRBANKS OFFICE

1648 CUSHMAN STREET, SUITE 300  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-6228  
TELEPHONE (907) 452-5181  
FAX (907) 456-6359  
WWW.ALASKALAWHELP.ORG

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Contact: Beth Heuer  
Telephone: 907-452-5181  
E-Mail: [bheuer@alsc-law.org](mailto:bheuer@alsc-law.org)

## **AlaskaLawHelp Web Site Offers New Library of Self-Help Presentations**

*Enhancements to web site increase public access to legal information*

FAIRBANKS — Alaska Legal Services Corporation and its justice community partners announce site enhancements and a new library of self-help materials that can be accessed by the public at [www.AlaskaLawHelp.org](http://www.AlaskaLawHelp.org).

AlaskaLawHelp.org provides information on how the legal system works, consumer issues, disability law, domestic violence, employment, family law, health law, housing, public benefits, seniors' issues, and wills. The site features self-help and legal education materials, downloadable forms and publications, a directory of legal and social services providers, and links to agency web sites.

Launched in July 2003, the site was recently upgraded with a user-friendly home page that offers visitors easy access to a library of self-paced instructional slide shows on a variety of topics. Site visitors can find self-help presentations on divorce, custody, child support, hearing and trial preparation, guardianship, special education, Alaska Native issues, mental health rights in Alaska, and eligibility for help through Alaska Legal Services Corporation.

Members of Alaska's legal community developed this statewide web site to include information particularly useful to the approximately 80,000 modest-means

Alaskans who often need legal assistance in the areas of housing, income maintenance, family law, and protection from abuse, but who cannot afford an attorney.

ALSC's Executive Director Andy Harrington notes, "ALSC and the AlaskaLawHelp project partners are gratified by the positive feedback we have received since the site was launched to the public a year ago. The site enhancements and prototype for the library of self-help presentations have been adopted as a model in the 29 states that utilize the LawHelp statewide legal web site design. ALSC was fortunate to have been able to work closely with the Alaska Court System in developing and implementing the online library of self-help presentations, and we look forward to expanding the site and its collection of online legal education materials."

AlaskaLawHelp.org was built through the collaborative efforts of the Alaska Bar Association, the Alaska Court System, Alaska Legal Services Corporation, the Alaska Native Justice Center, the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Alaska Pro Bono Program, Catholic Social Services Immigration and Refugee Services Program, the Disability Law Center of Alaska, and other social services and advocacy organizations throughout the state.

AlaskaLawHelp.org is part of a national effort to utilize technology to provide free civil legal information to low and modest-means populations. The technology for the web site was made possible through a Technology Initiative Grant from the Legal Services Corporation and was developed by Probono.net.