

LEHIGH COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS SECTION

Domestic Relations Section (DRS) staff are happy to help you, but may only help in certain ways, since the staff must be fair to everyone.

Here is a list of some things that DRS staff can and cannot do to assist you.

CAN answer general questions about how the DRS and the court works	CANNOT give legal advice, legal interpretations, or their opinion
CAN provide you with the telephone number and address for the local lawyer referral service, legal services program, and the law library	CANNOT refer you to specific attorneys or contact attorneys or programs for you
CAN provide you general information about DRS and court rules, terminology, procedures, and practices	CANNOT advise you as to how the DRS and court rules and procedures will be applied to your case
CAN refer you to the Law Library to research statutes, DRS and court rules, and ordinances	CANNOT research the statutes, DRS and court rules, or ordinances for you
CAN provide you with your case information	CANNOT provide you with confidential case information on the opposing party
CAN provide you with forms and written instructions and answer general questions on the completion of the forms, such as where to enter the case caption	CANNOT complete forms for you or give advice on how to complete them, UNLESS, you have a physical disability that prevents you from completing the forms on your own
CAN check your forms to see if they are complete	CANNOT tell you how to correct forms
CAN answer general questions that court appeal deadlines exist	CANNOT tell you what specific deadlines apply to your case
CAN provide information about the DRS and court schedule	CANNOT change an Order signed by a Judge
CAN provide referrals to self-help legal services	CANNOT tell you what to file or say in a conference, hearing, or in court
CAN provide directions to courtrooms, and offices such as the Law Library, Family Court, Sheriff's Office, etc.	CANNOT deny access, discourage access, or encourage litigation
CAN provide answers to frequently asked questions that are procedural	CANNOT allow you to talk to or contact a Judge outside of court
CAN answer general questions about general deadlines and timeframes	CANNOT predict the outcome of your case, or recommend whether or not to appeal a decision