



## BIRTH RIGHTS BAR ASSOCIATION

---

www.birthrightsbar.org  
info@birthrightsbar.org

3218 Vallejo Street  
Denver, Colorado 80211

### Board of Directors

Indra Wood Lusero  
Deborah Fisch  
Jacqueline Kay Hammack  
Theresa Morris  
Maria Laura Jeanrenaud

### How to Find and Afford a Lawyer

Legal fees vary widely; don't be surprised if your attorney charges from \$150-\$500 per hour. Rates vary by specialty, experience, region, and business model.

If you are accused of a crime, the U.S. Constitution guarantees you the right to be represented by a lawyer in any case in which you could be incarcerated for six months or more. State constitutions may guarantee that right for lesser crimes.

People do not have a right to a free lawyer in civil legal matters. Several "legal aid" programs offer inexpensive or free legal services to those in need. Most legal aid programs have special guidelines for eligibility, often based on where you live, the size of your family, and your income.

Some cities have non-profit organizations that provide legal services for specific issues, like the Southwest Women's Law Center. If you have such an organization in your area, consider asking them to take your case.

Departments and agencies of both the state and federal governments often have staff lawyers who can help the general public without charge, in limited situations. Consider contacting the relevant agency if you have specific concerns.

Many states provide resources for people who are representing themselves, the legal term for which is *pro se*. Consider contacting the courts in your area and ask a clerk what support the court can provide for pro se litigants.

If you cannot afford full representation, you may be able to receive "limited" or "unbundled" legal services. This provides you with a way to reduce cost by doing some work yourself, along with the advice or consultation services of an attorney.

Lawyers also use different fee arrangements from hourly to "contingency fee" to "late fee." Some lawyers may also allow you to create a payment plan.

To raise money for legal fees, the crowdfunding website "Funded Justice" (<https://fundedjustice.com/>) will help you create a fundraising campaign.

Bar associations in most communities make referrals according to specific areas of law, helping you to find a lawyer with the right experience and practice concentration.

Birth Rights Bar Association makes referrals to attorneys who are willing to work on birth justice cases. When we do not have a member attorney in your jurisdiction, please encourage your attorney to consult with BRBA to ensure that the unique issues related to childbirth and midwifery are considered.