

South Carolina Administrative Law Court

Do I need an attorney?

- Pursuant to the Administrative Law Court's Rules of Procedure, you may represent yourself as an individual in court. However, with the limited exception of cases arising under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, any party which is not a natural person must be represented by an attorney. *See* SCALC Rule 8(A).
- A party proceeding without legal representation shall remain fully responsible for compliance with these Rules and the Administrative Procedures Act. *See* SCALC Rule 8(A).
- Importantly, the laws and rules that govern courts can be complicated. Only an attorney can advise you of your legal rights, provide legal advice, and act on your behalf. If you choose to proceed without an attorney, court officials and court clerks cannot give you legal advice or advise you on how to prepare your legal documents. You will need to do your own research in order to prepare your case.
- No one shall be permitted to represent a party where such representation would constitute the unauthorized practice of law. *See* SCALC Rule 8(A).

Can you refer me to an attorney?

- To find an attorney who practices law in your area of need, you may contact the South Carolina Bar's Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) at 1-800-868-2284 (toll free). LRS offers a referral by location and by the type of law at issue. The lawyers who sign up with LRS are in good standing with the South Carolina Bar and must maintain malpractice insurance coverage. The lawyers also agree to a 30-minute consultation for no more than \$50. After the 30-minute consultation, the fees will be the lawyers' normal fees. Once you receive a referral, you will be expected to contact the lawyer by telephone to make an appointment.
- If you cannot afford an attorney, you may contact the South Carolina Legal Aid Telephone Intake Service (LATIS) at 1-888-346-5592 (toll free) or 803-744-9430 (Columbia area). Eligibility for assistance will depend on your income and assets and the type of problem you have.

DISCLAIMER: The general information provided in this document is based upon laws in effect at the time of the writing. It is not legal advice and cannot be cited as legal authority. Accordingly, before taking any actions based upon this information, we encourage you to consult with a licensed attorney.