



## ***A Network of Affordable Lawyers***

DC Refers was formed to increase access to justice in the District of Columbia by offering an online directory of qualified attorneys who agree to provide reduced fee legal services to persons of modest means (200-400% of the poverty level).

### **How does the DC Refers online directory work?**

To connect with a lawyer through the DC Refers online directory, follow these steps:

1. **Search for a lawyer** at [www.dcrefers.org](http://www.dcrefers.org). DC Refers lawyers handle cases in the District of Columbia.
2. **Contact a lawyer.** If you find a lawyer who has experience in the area of law you need help with, you then call or email the lawyer to see if they will represent you. Be sure to ask whether the lawyer charges fees for telephone consultations or first meetings. You must tell the lawyer that you learned about them through the "DC Refers" directory. The attorney (or a member of his or her staff) may ask you to provide information about your income.
3. **Decide whether to hire this lawyer.** The lawyer will decide whether or not to accept your case, and you must decide if the lawyer is the right person to handle your case. Use your own judgment in deciding to hire a particular lawyer.

### **Who are the lawyers in the DC Refers online directory?**

Every lawyer participating in DC Refers has undergone a screening process to ensure that they:

- are members in good standing of the D.C. Bar or the appropriate Federal Bar,
- maintain malpractice insurance,
- have at least two years of relevant legal experience, and
- have positive professional and client references.

All lawyers participating in DC Refers are willing to represent individuals of modest means for \$75-150 an hour, or the fixed fee equivalent of that rate.

DC Refers does not guarantee the outcome of any case, or that you will find a lawyer who is a good match for your particular case.

We welcome feedback about your experience with the online directory and with the legal services you receive.

**[www.dcrefers.org](http://www.dcrefers.org)**