

# Application for Washtenaw County Bar Association Family Law Modest Means Program (2024)

The Washtenaw County Bar Association created the Modest Means Program (MMP) for individuals of modest income **who reside in the State of Michigan, have a family law court case in Washtenaw County** and need affordable legal assistance. Qualification for eligibility is based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines and is assessed by the staff at the Washtenaw County Bar Association. **You must be working 20+ hours per week or collecting SSI or SSDI to qualify.** The opposing party must also reside in Michigan, and there must not be any alleged spousal abuse or alleged child abuse. Attorneys who choose to participate have agreed to a rate of \$75 per hour for legal work provided to MMP clients.

To apply, complete the application form and return it to the WCBA, P.O. Box 8645, Ann Arbor, MI 48107, fax to 734-663-2430 or email to [washbar@washbar.org](mailto:washbar@washbar.org) along with your **current W-2 or 1099** (please black out your Social Security number). **If you qualify, there is a \$30 fee** which will give you the name and phone number of a MMP attorney. You will need to make an appointment to meet with the attorney. The attorney will receive a copy of your completed form, and **the attorney may ask additional questions to confirm your eligibility for this program. The attorney has the final say in the qualification process.** If the attorney determines that you are not eligible for the program due to income, assets, or debts, you may choose to hire that attorney at his/her normal hourly rate.

**If you are determined by the attorney to be eligible for the Modest Means Program and you hire the attorney, you will be asked to pay a retainer (deposit against fees) of \$750 up front.** Please note that this is a refundable retainer. That is, if any portion of the retainer is unused at the conclusion of your case, it will be refunded to you by your attorney. Please note that the attorney has the right to ask for a higher retainer if this case goes to trial or an evidentiary or referee hearing. You may be asked by the attorney to sign a retainer agreement for services at the time of engagement with your attorney. Again, the retainer agreement will provide for an hourly rate of \$75 and a retainer of \$750. You will also be responsible for any court filing fees and other direct costs, such as long-distance phone charges and copying fees. The MMP provides non-recommendation referrals to participating attorneys; we don't guarantee legal services, nor do we monitor attorney-client relationships since those are private privileged relationships between the clients and the attorneys they choose to retain.

**Please remember that Modest Means is not a Pro Bono program. You must be able to pay for any services you receive.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in Washtenaw County? \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ May we leave a message at this number? Yes / No

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ May we leave a message at this number? Yes / No

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Minor Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Minor Child(ren)'s Other Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Is the other parent a resident of Michigan? Yes / No

Any and all attorneys you have used for this case: \_\_\_\_\_

Any and all opposing counsel: \_\_\_\_\_

*I need a referral for a Family Law lawyer to help with:*

- Divorce, No Children     Divorce, Children     Annulment     Separate Maintenance  
 Custody     Child Support     Paternity     Grandparents' Rights  
 Post-Divorce, Custody or Parenting Time

### 2023 Federal Poverty Level as published by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Note: Pregnant women count as two people for the purpose of this chart.

**Number in your household and their relationship to you:** \_\_\_\_\_

250% Federal Poverty Guidelines	
Family Size (# in family/household)	Gross Yearly Income
1	\$ 36,450
2	\$ 49,300
3	\$ 62,150
4	\$ 75,000
5	\$ 87,850
6	\$ 100,700
7	\$ 113,550
8	\$ 126,400

250% Federal Poverty Guidelines	
Family Size (# in family/household)	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$ 3,038
2	\$ 4,108
3	\$ 5,179
4	\$ 6,250
5	\$ 7,321
6	\$ 8,392
7	\$ 9,463
8	\$ 10,533

Are you receiving Public Assistance? **Yes / No** – circle one  
 Do you claim the child/children on your income taxes? **Yes / No** – circle one

<i>Employer</i>	<i>Address</i>

**Gross MONTHLY Income:** List ALL income including public assistance, unemployment, pensions, SSI &/or SSDI, worker’s comp., interest, dividends, rental income, etc.

Present Job	\$
Overtime/Tips	\$
Spouse’s Income	\$
Child Support	\$
Spousal Support	\$
Social Security	\$
Disability	\$
Other:	\$

**Property/Real Estate:** Include 2<sup>nd</sup> home/cottage, land, rental properties, etc.

<i>Property</i>	<i>Loan Balance</i>	<i>Monthly Payment</i>
Mortgage/Rent ( <i>Circle one.</i> )	\$	\$
Second Mortgage	\$	\$
Other:		

**Vehicles:**

<i>Year/Make/Model</i>	<i>Loan Balance</i>	<i>Monthly Payment</i>
	\$	\$
	\$	\$

**Assets:** Other than real estate & vehicles (listed above), list all other assets below ***including:*** checking & savings accounts, stocks, bonds, insurance cash value, IRA’s, deferred compensation, retirement funds, 401K, and investment accounts.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>Bank Name</i>
Checking	\$	
Savings	\$	
Credit Union	\$	
401K	\$	
Other	\$	

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand if I knowingly list any false information on this financial statement, my attorney may decline representation or may seek to withdraw.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

<b>Office Use Only:</b> MMP eligible: Yes/No    MMP Attorney _____    Mentor _____    Date _____    WCBA Staff _____
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