



OnlineTNJustice.org is a joint project of the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services and the Tennessee Bar Association. Special thanks to Dell, Microsoft, the law firm of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz and to the Tennessee Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission for their critical support of this project. These entities share the goal of increasing access to legal advice to those who cannot afford it.

OnlineTNJustice.org is based on the walk-in clinic or dial-a-lawyer model where clients request brief advice and counsel about a specific civil legal issue from a volunteer lawyer. Lawyers provide information and basic legal advice without any expectation of long-term representation.

The website was created in order to eliminate barriers to lawyer pro bono (such as geographic location, work schedule or family obligations), expand pro bono to the most rural areas of Tennessee and provide assistance to eligible Legal Aid clients who are turned away due to lack of resources.

Eligibility for use of OnlineTNJustice.org is limited to the following:

- The user must have household income less than 250% of the federal poverty level;
- The user may not have liquid assets exceeding \$5,000 in value (this includes checking and savings account balances, as well as the value of any stocks or bonds);
- The user may not be incarcerated;
- The user may not request assistance with criminal law matters;
- The user must be a resident of Tennessee.

The online system screens potential clients for eligibility and, if qualified, allows them to post a legal question to a private messaging system. The questions are answered by private attorneys volunteering their time. Clients will have the ability to check the system for answers at any time. Only the name of the client is shared with the volunteer attorney. All other information is anonymous to ensure privacy.

Lawyers will have the ability to log into the site 24 hours a day and answer questions from the public at a time that best suits their schedule. Lawyers will receive CLE credit for the time they spend researching and answering questions. Lawyers will be covered by professional liability insurance maintained by TALS

The website will go live in early March 2011.

Lawyers who would like to provide brief advice and counsel via OnlineTNJustice.org may check the appropriate box on their Action Card. Action Cards will be collected at the end of the day.