

# Right to a free lawyer? ... maybe not



My friend was charged with a crime.  
He could not afford to hire a lawyer.  
He was able to get a free lawyer  
through the public defender's office.

I thought I also had a right to a free  
lawyer since I could not afford one  
either. But I was wrong. My case was  
a civil case, not a criminal one.

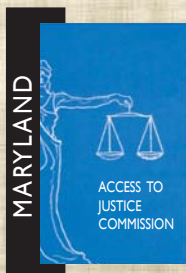
I wish I had known.



You do not have a right to a free lawyer in most civil cases,  
but Maryland's legal service providers may be able to help.

For legal help contact:

- Maryland Legal Aid, 800-999-8904
- Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, 800-510-0050
- Or see [www.peoples-law.org](http://www.peoples-law.org) for a complete list of Maryland legal service providers for low-income Marylanders, or to find information on lawyer referral services, pro bono programs, self-help centers, hotlines and other resources. Limitations may apply.



**Maryland Access to Justice Commission**

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