

## Part 5 Online Court Assistance Act

### **78A-2-501 Online court assistance program -- Purpose of program -- User's fee.**

- (1) There is established an online court assistance program administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide the public with information about civil procedures and to assist the public in preparing and filing civil pleadings and other papers in:
  - (a) uncontested divorces;
  - (b) enforcement of orders in the divorce decree;
  - (c) landlord and tenant actions;
  - (d) guardianship actions; and
  - (e) other types of proceedings approved by the Online Court Assistance Program Policy Board.
- (2) The purpose of the online court assistance program shall be to:
  - (a) minimize the costs of civil litigation;
  - (b) improve access to the courts; and
  - (c) provide for informed use of the courts and the law by pro se litigants.
- (3)
  - (a) An additional \$20 shall be added to the filing fee established by Sections 78A-2-301 and 78A-2-301.5 if a person files a complaint, petition, answer, or response prepared through the program. There shall be no fee for using the program or for papers filed subsequent to the initial pleading.
  - (b) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the Online Court Assistance Account. The fees collected under this Subsection (3) shall be deposited in the restricted account and appropriated by the Legislature to the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop, operate, and maintain the program and to support the use of the program through education of the public.
- (4) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide on the front page of the Online Court Assistance Program website a listing of all forms and proceedings available to all pro se litigants within the program.

Amended by Chapter 94, 2014 General Session  
Amended by Chapter 263, 2014 General Session

### **78A-2-502 Creation of policy board -- Membership -- Terms -- Chair -- Quorum -- Expenses.**

- (1) There is created a 13 member policy board to be known as the "Online Court Assistance Program Policy Board" which shall:
  - (a) identify the subject matter included in the Online Court Assistance Program;
  - (b) develop information and forms in conformity with the rules of procedure and evidence; and
  - (c) advise the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the administration of the program.
- (2) The voting membership shall consist of:
  - (a) two members of the House of Representatives designated by the speaker, with one member from each party;
  - (b) two members of the Senate designated by the president, with one member from each party;
  - (c) two attorneys actively practicing in domestic relations designated by the Family Law Section of the Utah State Bar;
  - (d) one attorney actively practicing in civil litigation designated by the Civil Litigation Section of the Utah State Bar;

- (e) one court commissioner designated by the chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court;
  - (f) one district court judge designated by the chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court;
  - (g) one attorney from Utah Legal Services designated by its director;
  - (h) one attorney from Legal Aid designated by its director; and
  - (i) two persons from the Administrative Office of the Courts designated by the state court administrator.
- (3)
- (a) The terms of the members shall be four years and staggered so that approximately half of the board expires every two years.
  - (b) The board shall meet as needed.
- (4) The board shall select one of its members to serve as chair.
- (5) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum.
- (6)
- (a) A member who is not a legislator may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses as allowed in:
    - (i) Section 63A-3-106;
    - (ii) Section 63A-3-107; and
    - (iii) rules made by the Division of Finance according to Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.
  - (b) Compensation and expenses of a member who is a legislator are governed by Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Legislative Compensation and Expenses.

Amended by Chapter 387, 2014 General Session