

# How to Find an Immigration Attorney

This information is intended to help you find a Massachusetts immigration lawyer, depending on your ability to pay for legal advice or representation.

1. *Private attorneys/lawyers in private practice:* You will need to pay these lawyers for their help because their law firms are businesses, although some offer free or reduced-price consultations to see what you need. Their legal fees will depend on the type of case. They may offer payment plans.
2. *Free or low-cost lawyers:* These lawyers work for non-profit organizations or legal services/legal aid offices. For most, you will need to meet eligibility guidelines, such as being low-income. See the next page.

**American Immigration Lawyers Association (private attorneys).** This [website](#) lists about 60 Massachusetts lawyers who specialize in immigration law. For the best results, fill in the state but leave the town/city blank.

**CAIR-MA list of attorneys (private attorneys).** CAIR-MA has a list of about 20 attorneys who handle immigration cases. These are lawyers we have worked with or who have been recommended by others. Some may offer free or reduced-price consultations, but you will still need to discuss legal fees. Request the name of an attorney using this [form](#).

**Lawyer Referral Services (private attorneys).** Lawyer referral services are run by state and county “bar associations” (professional groups for lawyers). They connect people who need legal help with attorneys in private practice who are willing to take certain types of cases. The lawyers who participate are licensed to practice law, so you do not need to worry about people who take advantage of immigrants by pretending to be lawyers.

The state’s two largest lawyer referral services are run by the [Mass. Bar Association](#) and the [Boston Bar Association](#) (serving the Greater Boston area). They work the same way:

- They will give you the name of a private immigration lawyer.
- Participating lawyers agree not to charge more than [\\$25 for a half-hour consultation](#). You may get the information you need during that call. If you need further legal advice or representation, you will need to discuss legal fees.

Many county bar associations run their own lawyer referral services, each with slightly different policies. Check their website or call for more details.

- [Barnstable County Bar Association](#) – brief consultation offered;
- [Berkshire County Bar Association](#) – at the top, enter “immigration” for practice area;
- [Essex County Bar Association](#) – free half-hour consultation;
- [Franklin County Bar Association](#) – no immigration lawyers currently listed;
- [Hampden County Bar Association](#) – usually no more than \$25 for a half-hour consultation, depending on the type of case;
- [Hampshire County Bar Association](#) – free half-hour phone consultation;
- [Norfolk County Bar Association](#) – no more than \$25 for half-hour consultation;
- [Worcester County Bar Association](#) – discuss consultation fee with attorney.

### **Free Lawyers**

Here are three ways to find Massachusetts organizations that provide free legal services for immigration matters, compiled by trustworthy sources – although we cannot guarantee that all information is up to date. IMPORTANT: Each of these organizations provides different types of services and works with different immigrant groups. Please check their websites to see what types of cases they handle before calling for help. If you need to meet income guidelines to qualify for help, be sure you know what your monthly income is.

1. [Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy \(MIRA\) Coalition](#) lists about 30 Massachusetts organizations that provide free legal services, depending on which part of the state you live in.
2. [National Legal Services Directory](#) lists about 40 Massachusetts organizations that provide free legal services on immigration issues. This list offers specific information about the types of immigration cases each group handles.
3. [Massachusetts Legal Resources Finder](#) can help you find an organization that provides free legal services on many issues, including immigration, based on your zip code and the type of help you need. Click on the “Immigration” box, then answer the various questions, including your household income.

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