

Civil Legal Resources



[LambdaLegal.org](https://lambdalegal.org)

A national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, and everyone living with HIV through impact litigation, education, and public policy work.



[TransgenderLawCenter.org](https://transgenderlawcenter.org)

Transgender Law Center is the largest national trans-led organization advocating self-determination for all people.



[ACLU.org/know-your-rights/lgbtq-rights](https://aclu.org/know-your-rights/lgbtq-rights)

The ACLU works to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.



Montana's Only State-wide Provider of Free Civil Legal Aid:

Montana Legal Services Association helps with:

- Family law (emancipation, guardianship, parental rights, divorce/partner issues)
- Domestic violence (orders of protection, sexual assault, stalking)
- Crime victims' rights and advocacy
- Landlord/tenant issues (evictions, housing discrimination, unsafe living conditions, utility shutoffs, security deposits)
- Navigating public benefits (SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, unemployment, disability)
- Debt collection or other consumer matters
- Tribal law issues (we have a tribal law practice group)
- Youth and young adult legal issues
- Agricultural workers' legal issues
- Other non-criminal legal problems and connection to resources
- For more on MLSA's civil legal resources and info see:

Apply for free civil legal services with MLSA or find civil legal information and forms at:

[MontanaLawHelp.org](https://montanalawhelp.org)



[MontanaLawHelp.org](https://montanalawhelp.org)

Community Resources in MT

Recent Pride Foundation Recipients

Billings

- 406 Pride

Butte

- Indian People's Action

Garryowen

- Biiluukè Strong

Great Falls

- Great Falls LGBTQ+ Center

Helena

- Montana Human Rights Network
- Transvisible

Kalispell

- Glacier Queer Alliance

Missoula

- EmpowerMT
- Montana Two Spirit Society
- Open Aid Alliance
- Western Montana LGBTQ+ Community Center

Ronan

- Flathead Reservation Human Rights Coalition, Inc.
- SAFE Harbor

Scan the QR code for more information on local organizations near you.



[PrideFoundation.org](https://pridefoundation.org)

Human Rights Campaign

- Recently released a guidebook for LGBTQ+ residents and travelers in the USA. Also includes ways to file a complaint with federal civil rights offices.



[HRC.org](https://hrc.org)

Montana Human Rights Bureau

- Charged with enforcing certain state and federal laws that prohibit unlawful discrimination.



<https://erd.dli.mt.gov/human-rights/>

Legislative Update

HB 282* Generally revises rental laws

- One provision: When served with court ordered eviction paperwork, renters now have only **5** business days to respond

HB 488* Revises security deposit law

- Makes it easier for landlords to keep a renter's security deposit when the landlord has a lawsuit pending against the renter

HB 19 Revises laws related to Indian affairs and economic development

HB 317 Provide for the Montana Indian Child Welfare Act

- Codifies federal protections for Native American children, families and tribal nations in state law

HB 790 Generally revises laws related to electronic monitoring of accused persons and updates crime victim notification of these monitoring systems

SB 99 Provide for a youth health protection act

- Prohibits gender-affirming medical and surgical care for transgender minors

HB 303 Implement Medical Ethics and Diversity Act

- Allows medical providers and institutions to withhold services based on ethical, moral, or religious beliefs

HB 359 Prohibits minors from attending drag shows and limits where drag shows can be performed

SB 458 Defines sex in Montana law

*Starred bills became law when passed. All other bills go into effect on the date provided in the bill language.

This is a list of **some** of the bills that were passed during the recent legislative session. These descriptions do not include all changes to the law.

Montana Free Press has a user-friendly bill tracker at:
<https://apps.montanafreepress.org/capitol-tracker-2023/>