

# Application for The Justice Center's Modest Means Program

The Justice Center, PO Box 429, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0429  
Fax: (719)473-9216 Email: [modestmeans@elpasocountybar.org](mailto:modestmeans@elpasocountybar.org) Phone: (719) 473-6212

**Our office will not accept phone, email, or walk-in inquiries about your application or case.**

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## **MODEST MEANS PROGRAM INFORMATION – PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING APPLICATION**

Colorado Springs lawyers created the Modest Means program to help moderate-income Coloradoans (who reside in El Paso and Teller Counties) find affordable legal assistance. The program is intended to help those who earn too much to qualify for legal aid, but who cannot afford traditional legal fees. Clients must still pay legal fees, but Modest Means lawyers have agreed to charge reduced rates for legal work provided to clients referred to them through the program. There is no grant, fund, or subsidy that makes up the difference between the lawyers' regular rates and the Modest Means Program rates. The lawyers are volunteers who believe in the mission of this program and want to help.

**Types of Matters:** Modest Means lawyers only handle certain kinds of matters. If the specific area of law with which you need help is not listed on the application, then it is not part of the program.

**To Apply:** Before you can be referred to a Modest Means lawyer, you must apply and be pre-qualified. To apply, you must complete the application form and return it to us by fax, mail, or email. You can download the application form from the Bar's website at <http://www.elpasocountybar.org/legal-resources-for-the-public/modest-means-program/>. **OUR OFFICE WILL NOT ACCEPT PHONE, EMAIL, OR WALK-IN INQUIRIES ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION OR YOUR CASE.**

Please do not forget to sign and date your application. Your application will not be processed if you do not fill out the application completely, or fail to sign or date it. Do not include any other documents with your application – any documents you send to us will not be returned. We process most applications within 14 calendar days of receipt. If you provide an email address, please check your email account for your referral or for questions that we may have about your application. Due to the high volume of requests that we receive, we cannot confirm receipt of your application. If you do not receive a call or email from our office within 14 days of receipt of your application, this means that we do not have a match for you at this time.

**Eligibility:** Eligibility is based on the type of your legal matter, your income and assets, and availability of participating lawyers in your particular area of law. It is important to understand that there are a limited number of lawyers in the program, and there may not be a Modest Means lawyer available for you. We cannot guarantee that we will have a lawyer for you even if you pre-qualify. In addition, your legal matter must be in El Paso or Teller Counties to be eligible for the Modest Means Program.

**Qualification Process:** We will only contact you if you pre-qualify and you will be required to submit proof of financial eligibility, including: 3 most recent paystubs, bank statements, and verification of special expenses and debts. Once we receive these verification documents we will begin the process of trying to match you with an appropriate attorney. If we find a lawyer for your case, we will give you their name and phone number for you to contact. The lawyer to whom we refer you will receive a copy of your application

and may ask additional questions to confirm your eligibility for the program. The lawyer has the final say as to whether or not you qualify for the program.

**Initial In-Office Consultation:** If you are referred to a Modest Means lawyer, you will need to call the lawyer to make an appointment for your initial consultation. Your first in-office consultation will cost no more than \$40, payable at the time that you meet with the lawyer.

**Hiring a Modest Means Program Lawyer:** Whether or not you hire the lawyer to represent you after your initial consultation is a decision for both you and the lawyer to make. We cannot guarantee that a lawyer will agree to take your case. If you have not received a call or email from our office within 14 days of receipt of your application, this means that we do not have a match for you at this time. All Modest Means lawyers who participate are volunteers and have the right to choose whether or not they will accept your case.

**Legal Fees & Costs:** Lawyers who are willing to accept Modest Means clients have agreed to charge no more than \$125 per hour for any services they provide beyond the initial \$40 in-office consultation. You will be asked to pay a retainer (deposit against fees) up front that will be no more than \$750. The retainer amount will be determined by the lawyer following your initial consultation. The amount of the retainer will depend on the lawyer's estimate of how much work will be required to complete your case. **Please note that while the attorney can request up to a \$750 retainer, not all cases can be completed within the requested retainer and you may be charged the reduced hourly rate for additional work not covered by the retainer.** You will also be charged for any court fees and other direct costs, including phone charges, photocopy expenses, etc.

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**The Modest Means program is not a legal aid program and it is not a pro bono (free) program. You must be able to pay \$40 for an initial consultation, a retainer of \$750, plus up to \$125 per hour (as applicable) for any work done beyond the initial consultation. In order to be referred to a Modest Means Program lawyer, your application must demonstrate that you have the ability to pay these fees.** If someone will be helping you pay for your legal fees and costs, please explain that on your application. If you are unable to pay these fees and costs, you should contact Colorado Legal Services at 719-471-0380 or The Justice Center's Pro Bono Program at 719-473-6212, or on our website, at [www.elpasocountybar.org](http://www.elpasocountybar.org).

# Application for The Justice Center's Modest Means Program

INSTRUCTIONS: PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE. PLEASE SIGN AND DATE YOUR APPLICATION. DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS WITH THIS APPLICATION. WE PROCESS MOST APPLICATIONS WITHIN 14 CALENDAR DAYS FROM RECEIPT OF APPLICATION. FAX, EMAIL, OR MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

**THE JUSTICE CENTER'S MODEST MEANS PROGRAM, PO BOX 429, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80901-0429**  
**FAX: (719) 473-9216      PHONE: (719) 473-6212      EMAIL: [modestmeans@elpasocountybar.org](mailto:modestmeans@elpasocountybar.org)**

Please note: All information provided will be treated as confidential communications. We will preserve the confidentiality of all such information unless otherwise required by law.

First Name	Last Name
Address	City, State, Zip
Phone Number	Email Address

**I am seeking an attorney in the following area:**

**BANKRUPTCY**

Personal bankruptcy

**CIVIL RIGHTS**

Police misconduct

False arrest / false imprisonment

Freedom of speech / assembly

Jail injuries

**CRIMINAL LAW**

Felony criminal defense

Misdemeanor (on probation or parole)

Juvenile criminal defense

Apply to revoke of felony probation

Federal criminal defense

Appeal felony convictions

Appeal misdemeanor convictions

Misdemeanor (no felony probation/parole)

Traffic violations

Driver's license suspension

Expunctions

**PROBATE, GUARDIANSHIP & CONSERVATORSHIP**

Probate uncontested

Guardianship/conservatorship

Durable power of attorney

**FAMILY LAW/DOMESTIC LAW**

Contested hearings/divorce

Uncontested divorce

Custody and child support

Family violence

Family limited scope assistance (not full representation; you choose to hire an attorney for any of the specific services listed below)

Coaching

Document review

Document preparation

Court appearances

Legal research

Responding to discovery

Interstate/foreign custody / UCCJEA

Child protective services issues

Modification

Protective orders

Enforcement of child support or spousal maintenance

Adoption with termination

Adoption without termination

Paternity (to establish child support)

**REAL ESTATE LAW**

Landlord/tenant (residential)

Foreclosure (residential / loan modification)

Briefly describe the legal matter for which you are seeking assistance:

In which county in Colorado do you need assistance?

When is your next court date? (if applicable)

Have you already consulted with an attorney about this matter? If yes, what is the attorney's name?

To avoid conflicts please list any attorneys that have represented you in the past regarding this issue:

Reason you are looking for another attorney:

Is the other party represented by an attorney? If so, who?

Marital Status:  Unmarried or Widowed  Married  Separated  Divorced

Do you and your spouse live in the same household?  Yes  No  N/A

Do you rent or own the home in which you are living?  Rent  Own

Amount of Mortgage/ Rent Paid Monthly \$\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in your home? \_\_\_\_\_years and \_\_\_\_\_months

Approx. fair market value of your home if you own: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Outstanding mortgage balance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own any land or a house, even if you do not live there? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Approx. fair market value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make of Vehicle	Year	Model	Value (est.)
1. _____			
2. _____			

How many people live in your household including you? \_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_ Children

**Please note that ordinary expenses such as rent, food, and utilities, are considered in the basic income calculations and should not be listed in Special Expenses & Debts.** Other personal expenses such as car payments, insurance, and credit card debts are not considered under our guidelines. “Medical” refers to medical expenses that are not covered by insurance. “Child care” refers to the costs incurred while a parent is at work. **“Transportation” refers to costs to get to and from work (bus tickets, gas), not car payments and insurance.**

All financial information will be verified.

<b>Gross Income Per Month (before taxes):</b>		<b>Special Expenses &amp; Debts:</b>	
Wages:	\$	Medical:	\$
Spousal Support Paid to You:	\$	Child Care:	\$
Child Support Paid to You:	\$	Transportation (not car payment & insurance):	\$
Veteran’s Benefit:	\$	Spousal Support Paid by You:	\$
Unemployment:	\$	Child Support Paid by You:	\$
SSI/SSD:	\$	Other (please specify and as indicated above do not include items such as food, utilities, insurance, credit cards)	\$
TANF:	\$		
Public Benefits, Aid, SNAP, WIC:	\$		
Retirement/Investment Income:	\$		
Other income (please specify):	\$		
<b>Total Gross Income:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Total Special Expenses/Debts:</b>	<b>\$</b>

<b>Spouse’s gross income per month: (If not already listed)</b>	Gross income/month \$	<b>Partner/Family Members in Household:</b>	Gross income/month \$ Name/Relationship:
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<b>Liquid Assets:</b>	
Checking Account Balance:	\$
Savings Account Balance:	\$
Money Market/Other Account:	\$
<b>Total Liquid Assets:</b>	<b>\$</b>

In order to pre-qualify for the Modest Means program, your application must demonstrate that you have the ability to pay the reduced rate legal fees. If someone will be helping you pay for your legal fees and costs, or if your application does not reflect how you plan to pay the legal fees, please explain your ability to pay:

**If you pre-qualify, you will be contacted and required to submit financial verification, including: 3 most recent pay stubs, bank statements, and confirmation of any special expenses and debts. If you own your home you must show proof of the approximate fair market value and balance of the mortgage/lien.**

Have you submitted an application before?     Yes             No            If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

**For Statistical Analysis Only (this will not affect your application status):**

<p><b>Age Range</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Under 18</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 19-29</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 30-45</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 46-60</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Over 60</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ethnicity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> American Indian or Alaska Native</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Asian</li> <li><input type="radio"/> African American</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</li> <li><input type="radio"/> White</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Hispanic or Latino</li> </ul>	<p><b>Military Service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Current service member</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Veteran</li> <li><input type="radio"/> None</li> </ul>
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**By signing below, I certify that all information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand and agree that if I provide inaccurate, incomplete, misleading, or false information on this application, or to any Modest Means Program attorney, I may be disqualified from participation in any Bar Association programs, the Lawyer Referral Service, The Justice Center’s Modest Means Program, and The Justice Center’s Pro Bono Program.**

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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date