



## Chief Justice Revamping Legal Website

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Michigan's chief justice says everyone should have access to justice no matter how little money they may have. That's why she's revamping the state's online legal resources. Many people here in Michigan can't afford a lawyer, but Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly might have a solution using the internet.

Marilyn Kelly, Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court: "We find that although there are many websites, not all of them are helpful."

Cooley Law School Professor Cindy Faulkner says these new online services will address a need right here in Lansing.

Professor Cindy Faulkner: "Ingham County had a legal assistance center at the courthouse, but it closed down late last fall, early winter because of funding."

Many of the people who need legal assistance make 20,000 dollars a year or less, but these sites can help them save money on routine paperwork-driven issues. Chief Justice Kelly's goal is to model the websites after what's already going on in Illinois. They've got a site that has instructions in Spanish and videos on things like how to avoid foreclosure. That way the Michigan court system can help people one download at a time.

Legal assistance experts say websites can't do everything, so if you're facing criminal charges or in the middle of foreclosure, they say be smart and hire a lawyer.



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