



# Self-Represented Litigation Network

## Basic Interview Formats

## Self-Represented Litigant

## And

## Stakeholder Interviews

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**Basic Interview Format  
Self-Represented Litigant**

**1. Interview Number (do not record name)** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. What type of case brought you to the courthouse today?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Traffic
- \_\_\_\_\_ Criminal
- \_\_\_\_\_ General civil
- \_\_\_\_\_ Divorce, child custody, visitation or support
- \_\_\_\_\_ Domestic violence
- \_\_\_\_\_ Juvenile
- \_\_\_\_\_ Probate
- \_\_\_\_\_ Small claims
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What is/was your role in the case?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Petitioner/plaintiff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent/defendant
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**5. What is the status of the case?**

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**6. If the case is completed, how did you do in terms of the outcome?**

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**7. How long did the case take/has the case taken so far?**

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**8. How important is this case to you in your daily life?**

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**9. Why are you representing yourself?**

- I spoke to a lawyer and got enough help to continue by myself
- My case is not complicated enough to need a lawyer
- A lawyer would slow down the case too much
- I don't trust lawyers
- I cannot afford a lawyer
- I don't want to spend the money for a lawyer
- I don't know how to find or hire a lawyer
- Other

**10. What sources of information did you use/have you used as you prepared for this case? How helpful was each source?**

Information Source	Helpfulness
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid lawyer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Free lawyer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court program to assist self-represented persons	
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal aid services agency (such as Legal Aid, Legal Services, or Disability Law Center)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paralegal/ Notario	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend or relative	
<input type="checkbox"/> Public library	
<input type="checkbox"/> Law library	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court clerk	
<input type="checkbox"/> Internet	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court website	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> No one	

**11. What aspect of the court process was most *helpful* to you during your case?**

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**12. What aspect of the court process was most *frustrating* to you during your case?**

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**13. What could the court do to improve your experience?**

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**14. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for the court?**

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**Basic Interview Format  
Stakeholder**

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Organization represented \_\_\_\_\_

3. Date \_\_\_\_\_

4. Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

5. What types of cases are you routinely involved in?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Traffic
- \_\_\_\_\_ Criminal
- \_\_\_\_\_ General civil
- \_\_\_\_\_ Divorce, child custody, visitation or support
- \_\_\_\_\_ Domestic violence
- \_\_\_\_\_ Juvenile
- \_\_\_\_\_ Probate
- \_\_\_\_\_ Small claims
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is your role in these cases?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Judge
- \_\_\_\_\_ Court staff (role \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney (nature of representation \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Librarian (organization \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Representative of public or community organization (\_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Elected official (\_\_\_\_\_)

7. What is your perspective on self-represented litigants in the court?

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**8. If you interact with self-represented litigants regularly, what aspect of dealing with self-represented litigants is most *frustrating* to you?**

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**9. If you interact with self-represented litigants regularly, what aspect of dealing with self-represented litigants is most *gratifying* to you?**

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**10. From your perspective, what are the three most significant problems that self-represented litigants encounter in the court?**

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**11. From your perspective, what are the three most significant problems that the court encounters in dealing with self-represented litigants?**

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**12. What more could the court do to meet the needs of self-represented litigants or to reduce their impact on the court?**

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**13. If you do not work for the court, what could your organization do to help meet the needs of self-represented litigants or to reduce their impact on the court?**

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**14. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for the court?**

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