



KEN BURKE, CPA

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER - PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
Clerk of the County Court • Recorder of Deeds • Clerk and Accountant of the Board of County
Commissioners • Custodian of County Funds • County Auditor • Clerk of the Water and Navigation
Control Authority

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Pinellas Clerk's Self Help Center Now Offers Convenient Online Appointment Scheduling

The Clerk's Self Help Center now offers the public the opportunity to conveniently schedule attorney consultations online. With this new feature, anyone can easily schedule their attorney consultations by visiting the Clerk's website at www.mypinellasclerk.org. The accomplishments of this program are deeply rooted in the assistance offered to self represented litigants as they face complicated and emotionally taxing legal matters.

"Our Self Help Center has become an invaluable resource for our community and this new online scheduling feature aims to further facilitate the process of helping customers navigating the legal system on their own," stated Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller. "It is very rewarding to be able to continue enhancing our services offered to the public as they seek help with their legal matters."

About the Clerk's Self Help Center

Pinellas County citizens who do not have a private attorney acting on their behalf can get affordable, trustworthy legal assistance at the Clerk's Self Help Center which has three convenient locations throughout the county. The Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court's Self Help Center was developed in collaboration with the offices of Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the Community Law Program and the Clearwater Bar Association. This service is available to anyone, regardless of their financial situation, and costs \$1 per minute, for a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 60 minutes. Fees paid by the customers fund the Self Help Center.

The Clerk's office may statutorily assist with Family, Small Claims and Landlord/Tenant matters. Since its inception in 2007, the Clerk's Self Help Center has helped over 21,000 members of the community. Attorney consultations are just one facet of the customer experience at the center. Other services include the purchase of forms, as well as notary services. The local Hispanic Outreach Center, which provides social services, makes available a Spanish language interpreter at the Clearwater location on Friday mornings.

In May 2008, Ken Burke was honored by the Community Law Program with the CPL Outreach Award for "Providing Self Help Centers to serve Pro Se Litigants in Pinellas County." In addition, the center was chosen as the national recipient of the American Bar Association's 2011 Louis M. Brown Award which highlights programs contributing to the distribution of affordable legal services using new initiatives.

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ABOUT THE CLERK'S OFFICE:

The Clerk of the Circuit Court was established as a public trustee by the Florida Constitution in 1838. The Clerk of the Circuit Court serves as the Clerk of Courts, the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Auditor, Recorder and Custodian of all county funds.