

A GUIDE TO PEACE OF MIND

Kalamazoo Hope

Legal Booklet

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About the Legal Booklet

For various reasons, one may find themselves needing aid regarding a disagreement, whether it be related to obtaining state or government benefits, dealing with discrimination, or trying to avert a problem via mediation; this booklet contains various resources which can provide assistance in this area.

Kalamazoo Hope is meant to act as a directory, and is not intended to be used as a substitute for working with a trained and certified/licensed professional.

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About Kalamazoo Hope

Kalamazoo Hope's purpose is to provide support to individuals in the area of psychological health. It seeks to do this by acting as an online guide, and showing ways for individuals to better understand mental health, so that individuals can better care for themselves, be there for those close to them, and improve the lives of those in the Kalamazoo County, Michigan area.

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Disclaimer

Kalamazoo Hope is an online mental health service intended to help individuals begin to understand psychological health and connect with related resources; however, as a disclaimer, it is not meant to be used as a substitute for working with a trained and licensed psychological health professional.

Furthermore, Kalamazoo Hope is not a part of any government body in Kalamazoo County or elsewhere; in addition, the presence of any business, organization, or other party on this website does not mean that it endorses Kalamazoo Hope, or vice-versa, merely that Kalamazoo Hope sees it as providing a service that could assist certain individuals.

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1) Advocacy and Civil Rights Organizations

[ACLU of Michigan](#) (the Michigan chapter of the [American Civil Liberties Union](#))

[ASK Family Services](#)

[Disability Network Southwest Michigan](#)

[National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#) – a local chapter, [NAMI Kalamazoo](#), exists in Kalamazoo County.

2) Benefit Decisions – Social Security

[The Appeals Process \(Social Security\)](#) - requires [Adobe Acrobat Reader DC](#) to view.

[Benefits Planner: Your Future Benefits \(Social Security\)](#)

[Information About Social Security's Hearings and Appeals Process \(Social Security\)](#)

[Understanding Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) Appeals Process \(Social Security\)](#)

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3) Benefit Representation

[Goidosik Morse Disability Law Group](#)

[Hettinger & Hettinger, P.C.](#)

[The Law Office of Samuel K. Silverman](#)

[Ryan & Ryan](#)

[Steege & Glista, P.C.](#)

[VA Disability Group](#)

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4) Court System

[Kalamazoo County 8th District Court](#)

[Kalamazoo County 9th Judicial Circuit Court](#)

[Kalamazoo County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney](#)

[Kalamazoo County Probate Court](#)

[Michigan Court of Appeals](#)

[Michigan Courts](#)

[Michigan Supreme Court](#)

[The Supreme Court of the United States](#)

[United States Court of Appeals – Sixth Circuit](#)

[United States Courts](#)

[United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court \(FISC\)](#)

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5) Federal Documents

[The Articles of Confederation \(National Archives\)](#)

[The Bill of Rights \(National Archives\)](#)

[The Constitution of the United States \(National Archives\)](#)

[The Constitution: Amendments 11-27 \(National Archives\)](#)

[The Declaration of Independence \(National Archives\)](#)

[Office of the Law Revision Council \(United States\)](#) - publishes the U.S. Code, among other documents.

[U.S. Government Publishing Office \(GPO\)](#)

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6) Government – Civil Rights

[Americans with Disabilities Act \(Department of Justice – Civil Rights Division\)](#)

[City of Kalamazoo, MI - Chapter 18: Community Relation; Discrimination \(ecode360\)](#)

[Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act \(Michigan Legislature\)](#)

[Michigan Department of Civil Rights \(MDCR\)](#)

[Office of Recipient Rights \(MDHHS\)](#)

[Office of the Prosecuting Attorney \(Kalamazoo County\) - Non-Discrimination Statement \(Kalamazoo County\)](#)

[Office of the Prosecuting Attorney \(Kalamazoo County\) – Victim Assistance \(Kalamazoo County\)](#)

[Portage, MI – Chapter 24: Community Quality; Article 7 – Non-Discrimination Ordinance \(municode\)](#) – currently listed as Ordinance 16-08 (awaiting codification).

[Right of Recipients of Mental Health Services \(Michigan Legislature\)](#)

[U.S. Commission on Civil Rights](#)

[U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division](#)

[U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission \(EEOC\)](#)

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7) Jury Duty

An individual with a psychological condition may be called upon for jury services; these resources are to help provide insight into the process, as well as to help one determine what preparations one may need to take to avoid having their condition aggravated. MCL 600.1307a (indicated with an asterisk) states that one can be excused from jury duty for psychological reasons.

[Frequently Asked Questions – Kalamazoo County Jury Services](#)

[Kalamazoo County Jury Services](#)

[MCL 600.1307a – Qualifications of juror; exemptions; effect of payment for jury service; “felony” defined.*](#)

[MCL 600.1348 – Jurors; threats, discharge, or discipline by employer; requiring additional hours of work; misdemeanor; penalty.](#)

[Welcome to Jury Service - United States District Court – Western District of Michigan](#)

8) Law Libraries

[Kalamazoo Public Library Law Library](#)

[Law Library of Congress](#)

[Michigan eLibrary \(MeL\) - Law](#)

[Western Michigan University \(WMU\) Law Library](#)

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9) Legal Assistance

[Gryphon Place Conflict Services](#) - provides mediation, which may prevent certain situations from escalating to a danger point; the service are provided on a sliding scale.

[How to Find an Attorney – Court-Appointed Attorney \(Michigan Courts\)](#)

[Kalamazoo County Bar Association Legal Outreach Clinics](#) - offer free legal assistance.

[Legal Aid of Western Michigan](#) - provides legal services for core needs.

[LegalShield](#) - offers discounts and referrals regarding legal matters.

[Michigan Legal Help](#)

[State Appellate Defender Office \(SADO\) and Criminal Defense Resource Center \(CDRD\)](#)

10) Michigan Documents

[Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963 \(Michigan Legislature\)](#)

[Kalamazoo Code of Ordinances](#)

[Legal Resources for Police Officers \(Michigan State Police\)](#) - not restricted to individuals in law enforcement, this connects with information on current and recently changed state laws, along with other resources.

[Parchment Code of Ordinances](#)

[Portage Code of Ordinances](#)

[Schoolcraft Code of Ordinances](#)

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11) Transgender Transitioning

Transgender individuals feel that they do not fit into the role that their society traditionally assigns to their physical sex. While being transgender is **not** a psychological condition, distress related to it, known as gender dysphoria, is.

Transitioning is the point in a transgender person's life when they start to express themselves in a way that they feel is true and accurate. This may involve using a name that they feel better fits them, selecting a wardrobe that does the same, gender affirmation surgery, and/or preferring to be addressed with particular personal pronouns (such as he, she, or they).

Another way an individual may seek to feel more like themselves can involve changing legal documentation to match a new name. Doing such can help one feel more like themselves, and alleviate some aspects of gender dysphoria.

[Changing Numident Data for Reasons other than Name Change \(Social Security\)](#)

[Correct a Birth Record - Michigan Department of Community Health \(MDHHS\)](#)

[DD Form 214](#) - an important military record, the document requires one to visit the [National Archives Correcting Military Services Records](#) page, fill out a DD-149, and submit it to the appropriate service branch (at this time, they are located in the upper-right of the web page).

[Gender Designation Change \(U.S. Department of State\)](#) - discusses procedures for obtaining an accurate passport.

[How to Change Your Name on a Drivers License or State ID Card \(Michigan Department of State\)](#) (to update one's gender marker, certain documentation is required; the change is done at a Secretary of State office, and requires a fee)

[How do I change or correct my name on my Social Security number card? \(Social Security\)](#)

[MCL 333.2831](#) - New Certificate of Birth; establishment; requirements (Michigan Legislature)

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[Veterans Health Identification Card \(VHIC\) \(U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs\)](#) - provides the information necessary to obtain a card that reflects one's preferred gender marker.