

## Wyoming Court Navigator Tip Sheet

As you have learned from provided trainings, court navigators play a very important role in helping self-represented litigants understand the basics of their court cases; complete and organize necessary documents and paperwork for their court proceedings; and learn about resources that may further assist them. Many self-represented litigants may be nervous or stressed about their court cases and they may look to the court navigator to help them resolve their court issues. While it is the navigator’s responsibility to provide references, resources, and information, the navigator **can never provide legal advice or legal or personal opinions about a litigant’s case**. To ensure clarity and maintain boundaries, provided below are essential guidelines detailing the roles and limitations of court navigators. These guidelines can also be shared with litigants.

<b>Court Navigators CAN</b>	<b>Court Navigators CANNOT</b>
<b>Provide basic information about court procedures and protocols</b> , using approved resources or reciting publicly available information.	<b>Make any recommendations to a litigant about what to do in their case</b> , whether based on legal strategies of the case or personal opinions concerning their case.
<b>Explain the meaning of terms used in legal documents and forms.</b> It may be helpful to use explanations included in publicly available glossaries, such as: <a href="https://www.ncsc.org/consulting-and-research/areas-of-expertise/access-to-justice/plain-language/glossary">https://www.ncsc.org/consulting-and-research/areas-of-expertise/access-to-justice/plain-language/glossary</a> <a href="https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/18599/english_master_glossary_02_2011.pdf">https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/18599/english_master_glossary_02_2011.pdf</a>	<b>Recommend specific language or content to include in a document or form.</b> Navigators can point to information about a form, but they cannot advise on the specific language or content to include in the form.
<b>Answer questions about deadlines and due dates</b> (using provided information).	<b>Calculate due dates based on a litigant’s case.</b> Incorrect calculations by the Navigator could result in negative consequences for the litigant.
<b>Identify and refer self-represented litigants to court forms.</b>	<b>Perform legal research for a litigant</b> , including researching case law, statutes, or opinions.
<b>Refer self-represented litigants to online resources, legal resources, and additional legal information.</b> Navigators should use provided lists of resources, the Judicial Branch’s website, and Equal Justice Wyoming.	<b>Predict the outcome of a case.</b>