SAMPLE DISCLAIMERS
FOR LEGAL E-REFERENCE QUESTIONS

- It is against Oregon state law for library staff members to engage in any conduct that might constitute the unauthorized practice of law (ORS 9.160 to ORS 9.166). They may not interpret statutes, cases and regulations, perform legal research, or advise patrons regarding their legal rights. They may, however, assist patrons in locating materials or links that would aid in individual research.

- The Oregon Bar Association has a lawyer referral service. They can help you locate an attorney who specializes in your legal issue. Their telephone number is (503) 684-3763.

- Although we cannot give legal advice, perform legal research, or interpret legal materials, we can make suggestions about resources and research tools you can use.

- Because of the ethical and legal implications surrounding the unauthorized practice of the law, patrons must be advised that the library staff may not engage in the following activities: perform legal research; answer a legal question; advise any patron on the status of the law on a particular issue; recommend that any patron contact a particular attorney; explain legal procedure, court rules or jurisdiction; or interpret the text of a statute, legal opinion, or administrative regulation.

- It is against state law and Library policy to engage in any conduct that might constitute the unauthorized practice of law. The staff is unable to interpret statutes, cases and regulations, or to advise patrons regarding their legal rights. However, staff may assist patrons in locating materials or links that would aid in individual research.

- Please note that law library staff members are prohibited from engaging the unauthorized practice of law by state laws (ORS 9.160). By law, they are prohibited from interpreting statutes, cases, regulations, or limitations of actions. They cannot recommend specific forms or assist in completing forms or advise patrons of their legal rights or obligations. If legal advice is needed, staff can provide patrons with information about contacting legal referral services or legal aid.

- Court employees are prohibited from giving legal advice. Advising people what the law is and how it applies to their situation is practicing law, which is what lawyers do. Library staff members are able to help you use the library, but cannot research or interpret the law for you.

- If you need someone who will research and interpret the law for you, you should consider talking to an attorney. The [state] Bar Association offers a Lawyer Referral Service, available [hours]

- Users should be aware that when contacting library staff through email, their messages are subject to public disclosure laws and may be obtained as a public record.

- The information provided on this blog is for information or research purposes only, not for use in any litigation or any other legal forum. There are no guarantees of accuracy, relevancy, or completeness. The Oregon Legal Research blog does not provide legal advice, nor does it endorse any person, product, or company.

- [Database service] is not engaged in rendering legal or other professional advice, and this database is not a substitute for the advice from an attorney. If you require legal or other expert advice, you should seek the services of a competent attorney other professional.

- This legal reference service is neither a Research Service nor a Legal Aid Service. The services provided through this legal reference service include referrals to legal information resources including legal reference books, to free and fee-based legal databases, and referrals to legal information services, such as legal aid attorneys, social service agencies, advocacy groups, and community dispute resolution offices.

- The legal reference service is provided to assist pro se litigants, also called pro per litigants or legal self-help litigants. People who want to represent themselves in court may use the library to research their cases. Law library staff will show pro se litigants how to use the law library's legal research materials but cannot do the research for patrons. Law library staff members are not attorneys and cannot answer legal questions. They can only assist library patrons use the legal research materials available in or through the law library.

- Nothing in this communication is intended as legal advice. If you need legal advice, please consult an attorney.

SAMPLE LEGAL DISCLAIMER SCRIPTS

- Not every question about the law has a simple answer – in fact, few of them do. Each person is different, each person's legal situation is different, and laws are applied to each person's specific situation. No one other than your attorney or other legal advisor who knows all the facts of your case is able to advise you on your legal rights and responsibilities.

- Librarians, paralegals, library assistants, judicial assistants, law students are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice or answer specific legal questions.

- The law library does not provide research service. Self-help legal books are for people who want to help themselves. The law library staff can only show people how to use the research tools.

- There are seldom simple answers to questions about a person's actual legal problems.

- Please do not confuse this legal reference service with a free legal aid service or a fee-based Legal Research Service, neither of which this law library provides.

- In real life, the answer is often "it depends." There may also be variables that affect whether or not [x] law applies in your particular situation.

- The decision you need to make is not a simple one, as it depends on many, many factors. You need to consult an attorney for legal advice that applies to your specific situation.

- I am a public law librarian in Oregon; we assist public librarians when questions are about laws or legal issues. However, I want to emphasize that we are librarians, not lawyers, so we cannot give legal advice, including interpreting legal materials. However, we can make suggestions about legal resources and research tools that you can use.