



**For Immediate Release**

July 20, 2022

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**Ohio Legal Help and the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP team up to provide new tool for filing racial discrimination complaints**

*New intake form is secure, confidential and easy to complete*

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** — The [Cleveland Branch of the NAACP](#) has a new tool that will make it easier, more secure and more convenient for people to file racial discrimination complaints. Beginning July 20, anyone visiting the organization's website to file a complaint will be directed to an [intake form on OhioLegalHelp.org](#), a legal assistance web portal that provides free information and help on civil legal matters to all Ohioans.

Ohio Legal Help and the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP have been working together for a year to develop the new mobile-first intake form and process.

"We are excited to partner with Ohio Legal Help," said Crystal Bryant, executive director of the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP. "Their platform is easy, secure and confidential, which will allow us to better connect with the community. And by leveraging Ohio Legal Help's data expertise, we will get a broader look at racial discrimination trends in Cleveland."

Ohio Legal Help welcomed the opportunity to work with the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP on the project. A critical part of Ohio Legal Help's mission is increasing equitable access to the civil justice system.

In late 2021, Ohio Legal Help commissioned a research study to learn Black Ohioans' perceptions of the civil justice system. The study found that Black Ohioans want to be empowered to resolve their legal issues, with 86% of respondents saying they were open to using a trusted website to resolve their legal issues. Eighty-nine percent of the respondents said they trusted the NAACP more than any other organization.

"Earning the trust of the community is important for closing the civil justice gap," said Susan Choe, executive director of Ohio Legal Help. "By partnering with a trusted organization like the NAACP, we are hoping to empower Black Ohioans to take action to resolve their legal issues."

All racial discrimination complaints completed on OhioLegalHelp.org will automatically go to the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP. The NAACP legal team will review each complaint and determine whether they can aid in the claim or provide a referral to another community resource.

"We're looking forward to launching this new intake form because it will streamline the process for everyone involved," Bryant said. "Complainants will have an easier time filing a complaint, and we'll have an easier time evaluating and using the data to guide our priorities and decision-making."

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**Ohio Legal Help** is a nonprofit organization launched in 2019 to help all Ohioans access the civil justice system. We provide plain language legal help information, interactive self-help tools and connections to local legal and community resources that can help people resolve their legal issues. In 2022, Ohio Legal Help is projected to help over 800,000 users access free legal information, court forms and other resources.

**The Cleveland Branch of the NAACP** works to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. Its vision is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination.