

## Casework: Determining What is Casework

Frequently Asked Questions  
Federal Agency Links

Preparing to open a case

Opening a case

### What is Casework?

Before you contact my office for assistance with a case, it is a good idea to determine if your problem is something my office has the authority and jurisdiction to help you with. The information and examples below can help you decide.

I can help you if your problem is with a federal agency.

A federal agency, as the term implies, is an organization that is part of the federal government. These agencies are either:

- part of the President's cabinet, like the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), since it is under the Department of the Treasury, or
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independent agencies, like the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

If you are unsure if your problem involves a federal agency, visit the White House Web Page as well as individual agency pages for more information.

If you are having trouble solving a problem you are having with a federal agency on your own, I may be able to assist you in working with the agency. While I can't ask the agency to do anything which they are unable to do under law or regulations, I can make sure that all of your rights are respected and that errors in procedure are corrected.

Unfortunately, I can not help you if your problem is not with a federal agency. Because of the Constitutional separation of powers between the three branches of government, **judicial matters (matters which involve the courts) do not fall under**

my jurisdiction as a U.S. Representative.

Examples of judicials matters are:

- child custody;
- divorce;
- criminal trials or imprisonment.