



Welcome to Oslo Courthouse





Open door

The Oslo Courthouse is situated in the heart of Oslo. Most of the court hearings are public, and the Courthouse is open to visitors.

Oslo District Court and Oslo County Court, the two first-level courts in Oslo, are both located here.

Borgarting Court of Appeal is just two blocks away in Keysergate 13. The Supreme Court is also situated in the immediate neighbourhood, at Høyesteretts plass 1.

A variety of activities

The Courthouse buzzes with activity. Some cases are difficult or challenging, some constructive or clarifying. Many people find help in solving financial problems here. The happiest visitors are probably those who marry in the ceremony room of this building.

Monumental building

The Oslo architect firm Østgaard A.S has created a contemporary monumental building that communicates the function and significance of the Courthouse.

Light, untreated granite covers the main façade towards C.J. Hambros plass.

Twenty-four simple square ornaments of white marble from Fauske in northern Norway, created by the sculptor Øivind Åstein, adorn the wall.

Eight corresponding ornaments are located on the foundation wall, marking the framework of the building.





Lex Portalis - the gateway to the law

Inside the revolving doors of Oslo Courthouse your first impression is that of Lex Portalis, two walls covered by dark porcelain boards reaching right up to Level 6.

Ole Lisperud, a renowned Norwegian sculptor, is responsible for the interior decoration of the Courthouse.

Parts of the Norwegian Constitution and the Law of Magnus Lagabøte (year 1200 AD) are shown in his handwriting on the boards.



Renovation and reorganisation

Oslo Courthouse was constructed in 1994.

Extensive renovation of the building's interior took place in 2005 - 2006, affecting every single floor and a quarter of the total interior.

The renovation was motivated by the need for additional courtrooms and negotiation rooms.

For the same reason, Borgarting Court of Appeal moved out of the Courthouse in 2005.

Law, Justice and Mercy

The sculptor Ole Lisperud has placed small ceramic sculptures in wall niches on the four top floors.

Their titles are related to activities in the building, such as "Upstander of the law", "Judge in armchair", "Unicorn - Law, justice and mercy", "Divorce" and "Life together".

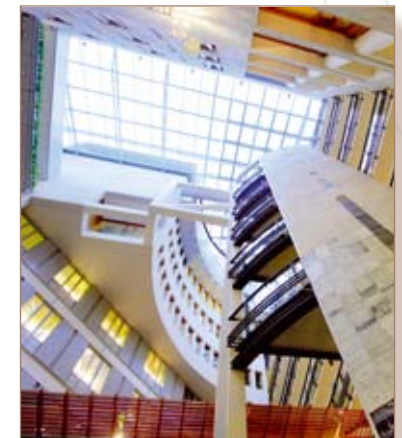


Ceramic sculptures by the sculptor Ole Lisperud are placed in wall niches.

Under the same roof

In 2006, Oslo Court of Enforcement and Notary Public and Oslo Probate Court & City Recorder were merged into one court under the new name of Oslo County Court.

Since then the two first-level courts in Oslo have been located under the same roof in Oslo Courthouse.



Two first-level courts are located under the same roof in Oslo Courthouse.

Openness

Most court hearings are open to the public. The interior design of the Courthouse emphasizes this openness, with many of the courtrooms having windows facing the atrium.

Educational visits

Many students visit the Courthouse. They come from secondary schools or more advanced courses such as journalism or law studies. Most days there are students attending court sessions.

The Courthouse staff do their best to make such visits as educational as possible.

More information

You can read more about the Norway's courts on the Internet:

www.domstol.no

Oslo District Court and Oslo County Court also have informative websites:

www.domstol.no/otir

www.domstol.no/obyf



Oslo District Court

Oslo District Court is the largest court in Norway. The court handles one fifth of all civil and criminal cases in the country.



Crime and Punishment

Every year, Oslo District Court hands down approximately 5000 criminal sentences.

In Norwegian criminal procedure, there is extensive use of lay judges.

The Norwegian Government has determined that a case must take no more than three months from it is brought before the court until a decision is made. Oslo District Court generally handles its cases well within this limit.

Witness support

A confident witness is a good witness, contributing to a correct verdict. A witness support office is located on Level 2 of the Courthouse.

The staff's job is to provide the witnesses with practical help, information and emotional support.

The main purpose of the witness support service is to reinforce the legal rights and duties of all parties.



The witness support service helps to create confident witnesses.

Resolving conflicts

When two or more parties disagree, a court solution can help resolve their conflict. Each year more than 2000 civil actions are settled at this court.



Instead of a normal main hearing, the court can call the parties in for court conciliation.

Court Mediation Programme

It is often wise to resolve a conflict as early as possible. One out of five civil disputes is resolved through a mediation procedure.

The main objective is to find the middle ground and a solution that both parties can accept. In the end there is no winner or loser, as is the case in traditional civil procedures. Settling a dispute through mediation usually reduces time and costs for the parties.

Family conflicts

Disagreements between parents concerning visitation rights and custody often lead to intense conflicts. Oslo District Court makes active use of family experts in the mediation programme for these cases.

During the mediation process the family can consider different solutions, and hopefully find one that satisfies all parties. This is also the best guarantee that everyone will comply with the agreement reached.



Family experts are used in mediation concerning visitation rights and custody.
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Oslo County Court

Many circumstances may lead people to Oslo County Court.

Legal enforcement

Legal enforcement is appropriate in a number of situations. If a tenant does not meet his obligations as stated in the tenancy agreement, the owner may request his eviction.

Demands for compulsory sale of real estate due to non-payment of rent, loans or taxes are other examples.



Many court decisions are made in Oslo County Court.

Bankruptcy

Oslo County Court handles bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings.

A petition for bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings can be submitted either by a creditor or the debtor himself. A basic requirement for opening proceedings is that the debtor is insolvent.



Court injunction

If you can make a claim plausible and there is an urgent need to secure this claim, you can demand a court injunction. These cases are handled in a matter of hours if need be.

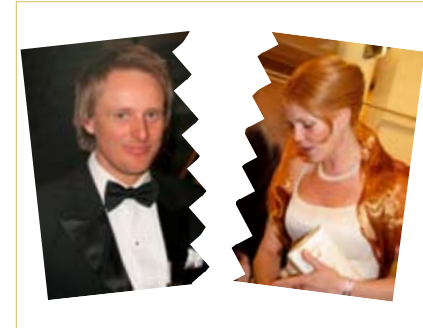


Debt settlement

If you are incapable of paying your debts in a long-term perspective, an enforced debt settlement can be arranged by the Court.

Distributing assets

In Oslo County Court, resolutions are often made through court mediation.



Oslo County Court handles public division of marital property upon divorce.

Division of estate

Deaths are reported to Oslo County Court, which also grants probate of the will.

If the inheritors disagree on the settlement of the deceased's estate, they can seek public division of the inherited estate.

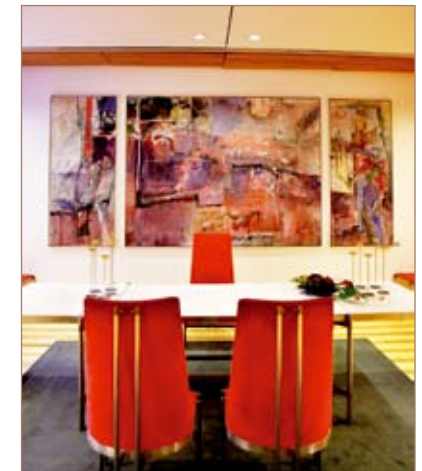
Oslo County Court also handles public division of marital property upon divorce. In these cases, Oslo County Court attempts to resolve disputes through court mediation.

Notary Public

Oslo County Court is designated to carry out the functions of a Notary Public.

If you need an official verification of a document or a signature, this is the right place to go.

The Notary Public also performs civil marriages. In the ceremonial room on Level 2 of Oslo Courthouse you may marry before the registrar. Approximately 1 500 couples are married here each year.



The Ceremonial Room, situated on Level 2 of the Courthouse.



Opening hours

Main entrance: 7.45 am – 6 pm
Reception: 7.45 am – 3.45 pm*
*3 pm in summer

Tram/Tube

The tram number 11, 17 and 18 stops close by the Courthouse.

The nearest tube station is **Stortinget**, a five-minute walk from the Courthouse.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria is located on Level 2.

Opening hours:

Monday – Thursday 8 am – 2.15 pm

Friday 8 am – 1.15 pm

Parking

Oslo Courthouse does not offer parking facilities, but there is a public pay parking lot under the Courthouse.

