



# AttorneyConnect Program

**Don't let your unanswered questions turn into problems.**

Termination. Sexual harassment. Open record laws. Municipal and law enforcement liability. Workers' compensation. Too often, these complicated issues end up in litigation.

EMC Insurance Companies and the AttorneyConnect program can help answer your legal questions to resolve issues before they end up in court. AttorneyConnect is a proactive program designed specifically for Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities (IAMU) Safety Group members who want to make the right decisions regarding various legal matters.

Under the AttorneyConnect program, IAMU Safety Group members can receive legal consultation on municipalities' every-day issues at no additional cost. Not only does AttorneyConnect help municipalities and municipal utilities solve several legal problems; it helps avoid them.

## What Is AttorneyConnect?

AttorneyConnect is an innovative approach to loss prevention and risk management for municipalities. AttorneyConnect was designed by EMC Insurance Companies, the leading insurer of Iowa municipalities and municipal utilities, as part of its strong commitment to loss control. An essential element of an effective loss control program is early identification and proper resolution of situations that could develop into a claim or lawsuit. Through the AttorneyConnect program, each municipality, including cities or municipal utility policyholders within the IAMU Safety Group is eligible to receive up to 90 minutes of consultation per calendar quarter with a Nyemaster Goode, P.C. attorney at no additional cost.

Legal questions often deal with the following areas:

- Contract review and recommendations
- Employee handbook do's and don'ts
- Employment practices and compliance with state and federal laws
- Equal pay and overtime questions
- Family Medical Leave Act
- Governmental immunity
- Injured worker return-to-work concerns
- Job reassignment issues
- Law enforcement civil liability issues
- Open records and meeting laws
- Proper hiring procedures
- Public Works civil liability issues
- Termination questions
- Workers' compensation matters



## How the Program Works

A legal consultation is as easy as a phone call or email. Authorized persons such as city clerks, HR managers, utility managers or city attorneys can contact AttorneyConnect any time, day or night, with questions regarding law by emailing [attorneyconnect@nyemaster.com](mailto:attorneyconnect@nyemaster.com) or calling 800-820-6490. A Nyemaster Goode, P.C. attorney will aim to respond within 24 hours, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. All communication through AttorneyConnect is confidential.

Within 24 hours after each consultation, a summary of the question asked and the advice given will be sent to the person who contacted AttorneyConnect.

## Risk Management Training

As an AttorneyConnect participant, your municipality or municipal utility is eligible to receive various educational opportunities, including one in-person or remote training seminar per year for supervisors, managers, or other elected officials. Nyemaster Goode, P.C. will present on the most critical issues for reducing legal risk. They will also make quarterly blog posts available to you. This information addresses everything from administrative agency decisions to statutory amendments to significant court notices and even up to date court developments. Additionally, they will provide access to multiple webinars each year covering timely topics in employment law.

## Other Services

Municipalities or municipal utilities may request services from Nyemaster Goode, P.C. beyond those provided under the AttorneyConnect program. Such services are provided on a case-by-case basis with a separate billing arrangement between the municipality or municipal utility and Nyemaster Goode, P.C.

## Additional Information

EMC Insurance Companies has retained Nyemaster Goode, P.C. to answer IAMU Safety Group members' legal questions under the AttorneyConnect program. Questions regarding an EMC municipality or municipal utility insurance policy must be addressed to your insurance agent or to EMC.

Legal consultation with Nyemaster Goode, P.C. under this program should not be construed as a substitute for performing any obligation as required by the policy, such as providing a notice of loss or proof of claim. You are still required to contact EMC. Nyemaster Goode, P.C. is not an agent of EMC Insurance Companies, but is an independent contractor providing legal services to EMC policyholders.

## About Nyemaster Goode, P.C.

Founded in 1918, Nyemaster Goode is Iowa's largest law firm with offices in Des Moines, Ames, and Cedar Rapids. The firm's broadly diverse practice enables its attorneys to offer solutions to the most challenging legal issues in virtually every area of the law to individuals, municipalities and companies of all sizes.

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## Learn More

To learn more about the AttorneyConnect program, contact your insurance agent.

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