Civil Legal Aid for Children

During the COVID-19 crisis, legal aid is a lifeline for children and their families who need help asserting their right to an equal education and other rights.

Legal Aid lawyers help children who face civil legal issues related to:

- Access to equal education and equal opportunity during the pandemic, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, language, or disability
- Immigration, family separation, and asylum
- Guardianship, custody, domestic violence, and other family law issues
- Public benefits for families, including: SNAP, disability benefits, emergency assistance, and access to health care
- Trauma that affects children’s ability to succeed in school

Low-income people at or below 125% of the federal poverty level ($33,125 per year for a family of four) qualify for civil legal aid.

In FY20, legal aid lawyers provided direct representation to more than 1,900 children. Thousands more benefitted from services to family members.

8% of legal aid clients in FY20 were under 18

Last year legal aid provided $115 million in economic benefits to the Commonwealth and its residents

$5.6 million won in total lifetime child support through legal aid advocacy last year

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From advocating for children with disabilities in school to ensuring landlords follow health regulations, legal aid lawyers protect young people across the Commonwealth.

www.mlac.org | @CivilLegalAid

Line item 0321-1600