Civil Legal Aid in Family Law & Domestic Violence

During the COVID-19 crisis, survivors of domestic violence who are living at home with their abusers have a critical need for help with restraining orders and other family law issues. In FY21, legal aid projects a 7 percent increase in domestic abuse cases compared to FY20.

Legal Aid lawyers help families by:

- Providing advice and representation and enforcing legal protections for survivors of domestic violence
- Securing favorable property settlements and preventing foreclosure and eviction
- Enforcing divorce and child support orders
- Addressing denial of benefits

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.

“My children’s lives are completely changed because of the help we received from legal aid.”

- Kenda (center, with her attorneys), survivor of domestic violence represented by South Coastal Counties Legal Services

3,125 Family Law Cases closed in FY20, including:

- Divorce, separation and annulment
- Custody and visitation
- Domestic abuse
- Child and spousal support
- Adult guardianship and conservatorship
- Paternity
- Adoption
- Name change
- Parental rights termination

Last year legal aid provided $115 million in economic benefits to the Commonwealth and its residents, including $1.7 million in health care savings for survivors of domestic violence

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Updated April 2021

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