

Civil Legal Aid in Family Law & Domestic Violence

Massachusetts
Legal
Assistance
Corporation

Line item 0321-1600

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

Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation
18 Tremont St., Suite 1010
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
617-367-8544

Lynne Parker
MLAC
lparker@mlac.org
617-391-5640

Elaine O'Reilly | Mary Ann Walsh
Governmental Strategies
eoreilly@governmentalstrategies.com | 617-447-5174
mawalsh@governmentalstrategies.com | 617-447-3711