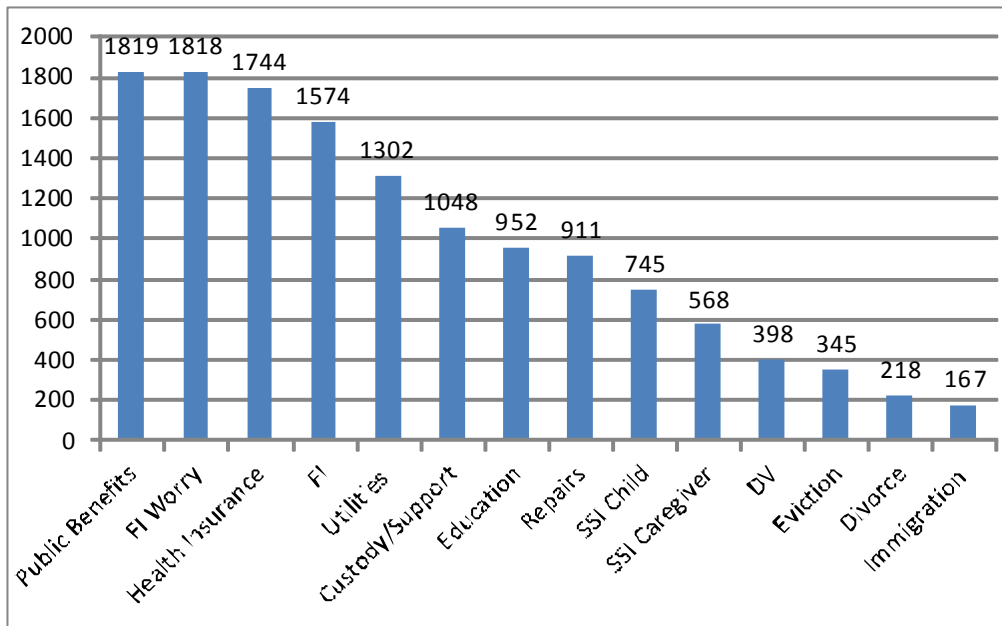


**PHILAKIDS MLP | PHILADELPHIA**  
**A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE DISABLED**  
**& ST. CHRISTOPHER'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN**

- The PhilaKids Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) places one staff attorney from the Legal Clinic for the Disabled (LCD) at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children's Center for the Urban Child (CUC) each day to address the unmet legal needs and social determinants of health that negatively impact patient health.
- The MLP screens every family in CUC's Ambulatory Clinic for unmet legal needs. To date, over 18,000 families have been screened. 48% self-reported at least one unmet legal need.
- The most common self-reported legal needs are: Public Benefits (1819), Food Insecurity Worry (1818), Health Insurance (1744), and Food Insecurity (1574).



- The MLP began taking referrals from the Center for Children with Special Health Care Needs in 2013. In addition to addressing the legal needs mentioned above, the attorney works closely with the care team to handle guardianship and advance planning for children with special needs transitioning to adulthood. Local firms offer pro bono support in handling the guardianship matters.
- The MLP expanded into the CUC Asthma Clinic in February 2015. To date, over 1400 families have been screened for unmet legal needs most often associated with asthma: food insecurity, housing and habitability concerns, SSI, public benefits, and utilities. 50% of families report at least one unmet legal need.
- LCD attorneys have provided over 3,080 families with free legal advice and counsel, referral, advocacy with state and local agencies, and direct representation in court hearings in a range of matters including child custody and support, habitability and landlord-tenant disputes, public benefits, children's SSI, and special education.
- The MLP has trained 94 pediatric residents on how to address legal issues impacting their patients health.



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**2016 At A Glance**

What does an MLP attorney do for the partnership each year?

Legal Services

- On-site attorney 4 days per week to provide free and immediate legal services patients.
- An MLP attorney met with nearly 500 families to conduct intake, give legal advice and, when necessary, provide full representation.
- In 2016, the MLP has:
  - Successfully appealed 5 Medical Assistance denials or suspensions, including securing reimbursement for the hospital for a child's two week stay in the NICU.
  - Obtained guardianship for 14 young adults with special health care needs transitioning to adulthood.
  - Secured an \$800 money settlement for a client that her former landlord wrongfully held.
  - Assisted 12 families with maintaining or reinstating the child's SSI benefits in the amount of \$733 per month.
  - Increased SNAP benefits for 9 families by as much as \$200 per month and negotiated back benefits awards for the amounts improperly withheld by the County Assistance Office.
  - Helped a patient family avoid a judgment of \$2119.00 in Landlord Tenant Court.
  - Litigated 12 child custody cases.
  - Sent numerous repair demand letters to landlords who were failing to keep the property up to the city's habitability code, which resulted in significantly improved living conditions for families without requiring any court involvement.
  - Referred 7 cases to a Pro Bono Special Education Lawyer.
  - Referred 5 families for free confidential consultations with a private immigration lawyer.

Education

- The LCD attorney:
  - Provides one hour of one-on-one training for all first year residents on the social determinants of health and the MLP model.
  - Participates in daily provider huddles to relay information and tips about legal issues patients may be facing.
  - Hosts workshops and Noon Advocacy Lectures for the hospital community on legal issues commonly affecting low income patients in the community.

Institutional change:

- The MLP creates and updates materials for health care providers to share with patients on common legal issues such as Utility Insecurity, Food Insecurity, and Health Insurance issues.
  - The number of provider-given food insecurity resources increased significantly in 2016. Providers gave food resources to 54% of families who screened positive for food insecurity, compared to 14% in 2015.
- The MLP team combined their knowledge of law and medicine to develop practice-wide protocols to provide an appropriate and uniform response to certain parent requests, including utility medical certifications and exemptions for certain cash assistance requirements.

The MLP is made possible by the generous support and pro bono services of Audrey Allen Immigration Law, McAndrews Law Office and Duffy+Partners Law Firm.

**Legal Clinic for the Disabled**

Making legal services accessible to low income persons with physical disabilities



St. Christopher's  
Hospital for Children

TENET  
Pennsylvania