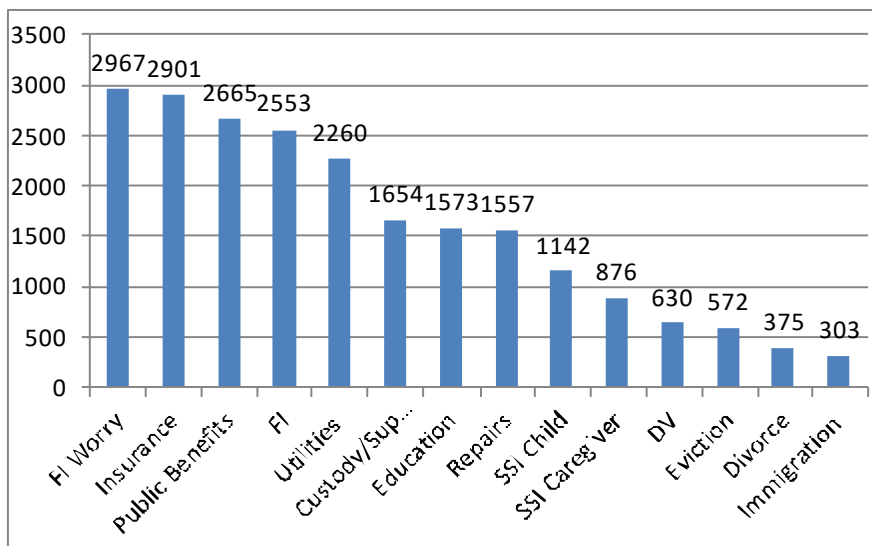


**PHILAKIDS MLP | PHILADELPHIA**  
**A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE DISABLED**  
**& ST. CHRISTOPHER'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN**

- The PhilaKids Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) places at least one staff attorney from the Legal Clinic for the Disabled (LCD) at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children's each day to address the unmet legal needs and social determinants of health that negatively impact patient health.
- The MLP screens patients in Ambulatory Primary Care Clinic, the Newborn Clinic, and the Center for Children with Special Health Care Needs for unmet legal needs. Since the MLP's inception in 2011, over 40,000 families have been screened. On average, approximately 41% of families have screened positive for at least one unmet legal need.
- The most common self-reported legal needs in the Ambulatory Primary Care Clinic are: Food Insecurity Worry (2888), Health Insurance (2822), Public Benefits (2613), and Food Insecurity (2486).



- In addition to addressing the legal needs mentioned above, the attorneys work closely with the care team to handle guardianship and advance planning for children with special needs transitioning to adulthood. Local law firms offer pro bono support in handling the guardianship matters.
- Since the partnership began, LCD attorneys have provided over 4,300 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 over 220 pediatric residents on how to address legal issues impacting their patients' health.



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**Partnership At A Glance**

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

**Legal Services**

- Attorneys are on-site 3 days per week to provide free and immediate legal services patients. The partnership has developed a coordinated referral system to connect families with services if an attorney is not on-site during the visit.
- An MLP attorney immediately meets with families to conduct intake, give legal advice and, when necessary, provide full representation. Common case highlights include:
  - Send numerous repair demand letters to landlords who fail to maintain the property in compliance with the city's habitability code, which often results in significantly improved living conditions for families without requiring any court involvement.
  - Obtain guardianship for young adults with special health care needs transitioning to adulthood, thus preventing any interruption of care.
  - Secure money settlements for clients when the landlord wrongfully withholds a security deposit.
  - Help families maintain or reinstate the child's SSI benefits in the amount of \$771 per month.
  - Successfully appeal wrongful SSI denials and secure back benefits (some well over \$10,000).
  - Reinstate, maintain, or increase SNAP benefits for families by as much as \$600 per month.
  - Litigate child custody cases, including those that require careful consideration of the child's special health care needs.
  - Represent individuals seeking Protection From Abuse Orders to escape domestic violence.
  - Refer 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 about legal issues patients may be facing.
  - Presents at Grand Rounds and hosts 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 MLP team combined their knowledge of law and medicine to develop practice-wide protocols to provide an appropriate and uniform response to certain patient requests, including utility medical certifications and exemptions for certain cash assistance requirements.

**Advocacy**

- MLP team members testified at a recent Philadelphia City Council hearing regarding the health-harming impact of eviction and substandard housing conditions. City Council recently allocated over \$1million to increase legal aid for low-income tenants.

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

**Legal Clinic for the Disabled**

Making legal services accessible to low income persons with physical disabilities



**St. Christopher's  
Hospital for Children**