

LEGAL RESOURCES

FOR FOSTER CHILDREN AND FOSTER PARENTS

Alliance for Children's Rights (213) 368-6010 Fax: (213) 368-6016

www.kids-alliance.org

3333 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 550 Los Angeles 90010 (Client Intake – No Walk-ins)

“The mission of The Alliance for Children's Rights is protecting the rights and futures of abused and impoverished children throughout Los Angeles County – in hopes of creating a world in which all children are able to have a safe and permanent family, a quality education, and all of the support and services they so rightfully deserve.”

Advocacy Areas: Dependency, Foster Care Adoptions, Health Care, Probate Guardianships, Government Benefits, Mentoring, Special Education, (no Family Law)”

Bet Tzedek Legal Services (323) 939-0506 Fax: (323) 549-5880

www.bettzedek.org

145 South Fairfax Ave., #200 Los Angeles 90036 (No Walk-ins)

N. Hollywood Office: 12821 Victory Blvd. North Hollywood, CA 91606

Tel: (818) 769-0136 Fax: (818) 763-3299

The firm “provides free legal assistance to thousands of people who would otherwise be denied access to the legal system underpinning our democracy”.

Advocacy Areas: Kinship Care, Family Caregivers, Disability Rights, Consumer Rights, Employment, Landlord/Tenant, Housing, Power of Attorney, Government Benefits, Health Care, Patient's Rights, Wage Claims

Break the Cycle (888) 988-8336 (TEEN)

www.breakthecycle.org Email: help@breakthecycle.org

5200 W. Century Blvd., Suite 300 Los Angeles, 90045

“Break the Cycle engages, educates and empowers youth to build lives and communities free from domestic and dating violence. Break the Cycle provides advice, referrals, legal information, advocacy and counsel to people, ages 12 to 24, and the people who care about them. Our lawyers can help you learn about your options and legal rights.”

Advocacy Areas: Teen/Youth Domestic Violence, Restraining Orders, Child Custody, Visitation, Community Referrals, Access to Shelter Services

California Office of the Foster Care Ombudsman (877) 846-1602

www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov Email: fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov

1. Ensure the voice of foster children and youth is heard, and act on their behalf.
2. Create an avenue for foster children and youth to file complaints regarding their placement, care and services without fear of retribution from those who provide their care and services.

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3. Act as an independent forum for the investigation and resolution of complaints made by or on behalf of children placed in foster care and make appropriate referrals.
 4. Provide children and youth with information on their rights when placed in foster care.
 5. Maintain a toll-free telephone number which foster children and youth may call from anywhere in California to express their concerns and complaints.
- The Office of the Foster Care Ombudsman was established by state legislation and has been mandated to do the following:

California Youth Connection (213) 489-0720 Fax: (213) 489-0620

www.calyouthconn.org

453 S. Spring St #416 Los Angeles, 90013

Northern CA office: 1650 Oregon St. Redding 96001 (530) 243-8450

The CYC is a statewide non-profit advocacy organization comprised of current and former foster youth, ages 14 to 24. The CYC mission is to promote the participation of foster youth in policy development and legislative change in an effort to improve the foster care system. The CYC strives to form collaboration with decision-makers to improve social work practice and child welfare policy. For more information please call them at (800) 397-8236 or (415) 442-5060.

Children's Advocacy Institute (619) 260-4806 Fax: (619) 260-4753

www.caichildlaw.org Email: info@caichildlaw.org

5998 Alcala Park San Diego, CA 92110 (Serves San Diego plus statewide advocacy)

Sacramento Office: 717 K. Street, Suite 509 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 444-3875

The Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI) is part of the [Center for Public Interest Law](#) at the [University Of San Diego School Of Law](#). Staffed by experienced attorneys and advocates, advised by the [CAI Council for Children](#), and assisted by USD law student interns, CAI works to improve the status and well-being of children in our society by representing their interests and right to a safe, healthy childhood. In addition to its [academic program](#), which trains law students to be effective child advocates, CAI represents children in the state legislature, in the courts, before administrative agencies, and through public education programs.

Advocacy areas: Juvenile Justice System, Dependency System, Child Abuse Prevention, Foster Care, Adoption, Government Benefits, Health, Education, Special Education, Child Care.

Services offered: Legislative, Litigation, Budget Advocacy, Regulatory Advocacy, and Public Education

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Children’s Law Center Los Angeles (323) 980-1700 Fax (323) 980-1708

www.clcla.org

201 Centre Plaza Drive, Suite 10 Monterey Park, CA 91754-2178

“CLC represents more than 80% of the nearly 30,000 children under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Dependency Court. CLC attorneys appear on behalf of children in day-to-day dependency proceedings and also provide committed, passionate representation in a host of related hearings that seek to ensure the well-being and future success of each child.”

Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law (213)-388-7505

Teen Services: (213) 388-7514 Ext. 306 or 310

www.hbcfl.org Email: info@hbcfl.org

3250 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 710 Los Angeles, CA 90010

“The Harriett Buhai Center provides family law and domestic violence assistance to low-income families in Los Angeles through the efforts of volunteer lawyers, paralegals and students. The mission of the Center is to assure these families access to the courts, reduce poverty among children and single parents, and stop domestic violence.”

Advocacy areas: Child Custody, Child Support, Divorce, Domestic Violence, Paternity, Restraining Orders, legal Separation, Spousal Support, Visitation.

Immigration Center for Women & Children (213) 614-1165 Fax (213) 624-1163

www.icwclaw.org

634 South Spring Street, Suite 615 Los Angeles, CA 90014

“The ICWC is a non-profit legal organization providing affordable immigration services to underrepresented women and children in Los Angeles. ICWC strives to provide security and stability for children who are abused, abandoned, or neglected and for women and children who are victims of trafficking or domestic violence.”

Advocacy area: Immigration

Services offered: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, VAWA, T-Visa, U-Visa, Probate Guardianships, and Family Based Immigration Petition

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (323) 801-7991 Fax (323) 801-7945

www.lafla.org

1102 Crenshaw Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90019

East Los Angeles (Government benefits including foster care) 5228 Whittier Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90022 Tel (213) 640-3883 (Client Intake)

[Offices: Inglewood, Inner City, Long Beach, Santa Monica, South Central]

“As Los Angeles’ frontline law firm for low-income people, we promote access to justice, strengthen communities, combat discrimination, and effect systemic change through representation, advocacy, and community education.”

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Advocacy areas: Children, Foster Care, Government Benefits, Community Economic Development, Consumer Rights, Employment, Family Law, Health Care, Housing, Immigrant's Rights, Bankruptcy

Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc. (213) 389-2077 Fax (213) 389-2595

www.mhas-la.org Email: infor@mhas-la.org

3255 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 902 Los Angeles, CA 90010

"MHAS provides free legal services to people with medical and developmental disabilities. MHAS assists both children and adults with an emphasis on obtaining government benefits and services, protecting rights, and fighting discrimination."

Advocacy areas: Children, Government Benefits, Civil Rights, Special Education, Foster Youth Education, Disability Rights, Employment, Health Care, Housing, Mental Health, Fair Housing

National Center for Youth Law (510) 835-8098 Fax: (510) 835-8099

www.youthlaw.org Email: info@youthlaw.org

405 14th Street, 15th Floor Oakland, CA 94612-2701

Sacramento Office: 1107 Ninth St., Suite 801 Sacramento, CA 95814-3600

Tel: (916) 444-2290 Fax: (916) 442-7966

"NCYL uses the law to improve the lives of poor children. The Center works to ensure they have the resources, support, and opportunities they need for a healthy and productive future. The Center focuses its work in four areas: safety, stability, and well-being of abused and neglected children, quality health and mental health care, successful transitions to adulthood for at-risk youth, and financial stability for low-income families and children."

Advocacy areas: Children and Youth

Services offered: Consultation, Information Services, Representation, and Training.

Counties Served: Statewide Legal Support Center

Protection and Advocacy Inc.

www.pai-ca.org

LA Office: 3580 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 902 Los Angeles, CA 90010 (213) 427-8747

Main Office: 100 Howe Avenue, 185N Sacramento, CA 95825 (916) 488-9950

The agency works to advance "The human and legal rights of people with disabilities."

Advocacy areas: For people with disabilities: Abuse and Neglect, Education, Employment, Government Benefits, Health Care Benefits, Housing, Long-Term Care, Transportation

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Public Counsel’s Children’s Rights Project & Homeless Youth Project

(213) 385-2977 Fax: (213) 385-9089

www.publiccounsel.org

610 S. Ardmore Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90005

“Public Counsel is dedicated to advancing equal justice under law by delivering pro bono legal services to indigent and under- represented children and adults throughout Los Angeles County, ensuring that other community-based organizations serving this population have legal support, and mobilizing the pro bono resources of the community’s private attorneys and law students.”

Advocacy Areas: Foster Care, Adoptions, Legal Guardianships, Education and Special Education Advocacy, Pregnant and Parenting Teens, Assistance with TILP, Mentoring, and Accessing ILP benefits, Prop 63 mental health advocacy, Immigrant’s Rights, Government Benefits, Consumer Law

The Judicial Council of California’s Center for Families, Children, & the Courts (415) 865-7739 Fax: (415) 865-7217

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/ Email: CFCC@jud.ca.gov

455 Golden Gate Ave., 6th Floor San Francisco, CA 94102-3660

The AOC Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) is dedicated to improving the quality of justice and services to meet the diverse needs of children, youth, families, and self-represented litigants in the California courts.

Advocacy Areas: Issues affecting children and youth

Services offered: Research and Trainings

The State Bar of California (866) 442-2529

www.calbar.org

Main Office: 180 Howard Street San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 538-2000

The State Bar is a public corporation within the judicial branch of government, serving as an arm of the California Supreme Court, which regulates the professional conduct of the state’s lawyers and provides greater access to the justice system for all citizens. Two publications of particular interest to foster care children, families, and advocates which are available on the website are: “Kids & the Law – An A-Z Guide for Parents” and “when you Become 18: A Survival Guide for Teenagers”

Advocacy areas: All

Lawyer Referral: If you need to hire an attorney to handle your case or want to consult an attorney on a potential case, a certified lawyer referral service can put you in touch with a lawyer who can handle your problem. If your particular problem can be resolved without a lawyer, the referral service will tell you how to get the help you need. (866) 442-2529 (CA-LAW)

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Western Center on Law and Poverty (213) 487-7211 Fax: (213) 487-0242

www.wclp.org Email: info@wclp.org

3701 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 208 Los Angeles, CA 90010

“WCLP advances and enforces the rights of low-income Californians in health, housing and public assistance by working statewide for systemic change. We improve the lives of our clients through litigation, education, legal support to social and legal services providers, legislation, and policy advocacy.”

Advocacy areas: Health, Housing, Welfare, Foster Care

Services offered: Consultation; Information; Representation; Training

Counties served: Statewide Legal Support Center

Youth Law Center (415) 543-3379 Fax: (415) 956-9022

www.ylc.org Email: infor@ylc.org

417 Montgomery Street, Suite 900 San Francisco, CA 94104

“The Youth Law Center is a public interest law firm that works to protect children in the nation’s foster care and juvenile justice systems from abuse and neglect, and to ensure that they receive the necessary support and services to become healthy and productive adults.”

Advocacy areas: Children and Youth

Services Offered: Consultation; Information; Representation; and Training

Counties Served: Statewide Legal Support Center