

Family Legal Center at Children's Hospital -New Orleans assists families with legal issues

By: Steven Nguyen

The Medical-Legal Partnership has been a successful endeavor around the United States for many years, and has recently made its way into Louisiana. According to the *National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership*, the mission of the medical-legal partnership is to improve the health and well-being of people and communities by leading health, public health, and legal sectors in an integrated, upstream approach to combating health-harming social conditions. They also report that 1 in 6 people needs legal care to be healthy.

Children's Hospital in New Orleans is just one place you can find such a partnership. The Family Legal Center assists families with any health-related legal issues. It is staffed by a licensed attorney, and an intake person. Services are provided to families based on sliding scale. Services offered include, but are not limited to:

- Landlord Tenant Issues
- Mortgage Issues
- Guardianship
- Child Support
- Child Custody
- Divorce
- Domestic Violence
- Wills/Estates
- School (e.g. Expulsions and testing issues – ADHD)
- Healthcare Costs
- Immigration
- Age of Majority Legal Issues
- IRS/Tax Issues
- Bankruptcy



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FHF of Jefferson
201 Evans Road
Building One, Suite 100
Harahan, LA 70123
504.888.9111
504.888.0246 (fax)
www.fhfjefferson.org



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- Benefit Payments (SSI,SSDI)
- Housing/Utilities

Any families needing assistance from the Family Legal Center at Children's Hospital should request an intake form be filled out by their medical staff, or by calling them directly at (504) 355-0983. They are available to assist you 3 days a week. For more information, you can visit the Family Legal Center's website at www.chnola.org/FamilyLegal

This was made possible through the work of the *Louisiana Civil Justice Center*, a non-profit organization that provides civil legal assistance for low-income, elderly, and disaster-affected residents of Louisiana.

Anyone needing services through the Louisiana Civil Justice Center or if you are interested in establishing a Medical-Legal partnership, can contact the Civil Justice Center at their toll-free hotline 1-800-310-7029. For more information, visit their website at: <http://laciviljustice.org/>



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201 Evans Road
Building One, Suite 100
Harahan, LA 70123
504.888.9111
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