

# Criminal Law

## First Defense Legal Aid

5100 West Harrison Street  
Chicago, IL 60644

**What they do:** First Defense Legal Aid provides free, 24-hour, legal representation to people in Chicago Police Department custody and educates Chicagoans about how to protect their constitutional rights. Call this hotline and a lawyer will show up on the scene or at the police station while you are in custody.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS BEING HELD BY THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT CALL **1-800-LAW-REP-4** FOR A FREE LAWYER, 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR.

## Cabrini Green Legal Aid

740 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642  
Phone: 312-738-2452

- **Criminal Records Program:** Legal assistance with clearing arrest and conviction records
- **Criminal Defense Program:** Legal representation for individuals who are unjustly accused, juveniles, those suffering from mental illness, first-time offenders, or others (call to see if your case qualifies)
- **Family Law:** CGLA represents individuals in family court, focusing our representation on previously unmarried parties (parentage cases) addressing issues of child support, child custody, child visitation and establishing paternity
- **Housing Law:** Defending tenants of subsidized housing who are unjustly threatened with eviction or voucher termination based on an allegation of criminal activity by a lease holder, family member, or guest. Additionally, CGLA represents individuals denied admission to subsidized housing based on criminal records. CGLA's efforts help prevent homelessness, displacement, and forced neighborhood relocation.

## CARPLS

- **Free legal advice:** Attorneys give free legal advice, but do not represent clients in the courtroom. If you need an attorney to go with you, you may qualify for free or reduced fee services from other legal organizations- CARPLS can refer you to them if need be.

**\*\*\*Hotline: 312-738-9200 (free)\*\*\***

- Available: Mon/Wed 9:30a-7:30p, Tue/Thur/Fri 9:30a-4:30p
  - Legal consultation is CONFIDENTIAL
  - Many people call CARPLS for free legal help and the hotline is very busy. If you get a busy signal, call back at another time, but keep trying. When you get through, you may hold for up to 20 minutes. Follow the instructions and if you are asked to leave a message, someone will call you back.
- **Legal representation:** CARPLS helps people up to 350% of the Federal Poverty Level. A link to a chart that shows the current federal poverty levels is available on [www.IllinoisLegalAid.org/Cook](http://www.IllinoisLegalAid.org/Cook).
  - Book an appointment: If you don't want to use the hotline, you can also book a 30 min legal consultation at [info@carpls.org](mailto:info@carpls.org). This is not free and the fees are \$25.

## Non-Criminal Law

### Chicago Legal Clinic

- **What they do:** The Chicago Legal Clinic is a not-for-profit organization which offers low cost legal services. We provide sliding-scale services in English and Spanish based on your ability to pay.
- **Visit [clclaw.org](http://clclaw.org) or call 773-731-1762 to see if they can help you.**
- **Legal issues they work with are:**
  - Child custody and support
  - Guardianship
  - Immigration
  - Landlord-tenant Disputes
  - Social Security Benefits
  - Traffic accidents
  - Environmental issues
  - Divorces

### The Justice Entrepreneurs Project

- Lawyers in the Justice Entrepreneurs Project (JEP) provide lower cost, quality legal services that often include fixed fees and flexible representation options (like unbundled, a la carte services). **Find more information or contact a lawyer at [jepchicago.org](http://jepchicago.org) or 312-546-3282.**
- **Legal issues they work with include:**
  - Family Law – including divorce, spousal support, child support, custody, visitation and orders of protection
  - Landlord/Tenant – including eviction proceedings and security deposit claims
  - Employment Law – including discrimination and wage claims
  - Criminal misdemeanors, traffic tickets, license suspensions and ordinance violations
  - Immigration Law – including visas, residency, naturalization and asylum

### Chicago Volunteer Legal Clinic

- If you feel that your legal problem fall under the **type of cases accepted** then the next step is to contact us. You have three options:
  - 1. Apply online [www.cvlcs.org](http://www.cvlcs.org)
  - 2. Attend a legal clinic (listed on the website)- Closest one to LYHS is Old Pats/St. Agatha 3151 W. Douglas Blvd. Chicago, IL 60623. Meets every 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Appointments call 312-798-2399. Walk-ins welcome.
  - 3. Call at 312-332-1624

Cases Taken:

- Adoption
- Divorce
- Minor and adult guardianships
- Child support enforcement
- Landlord disputes
- Immigration

Cases not taken:

- Expungement
- Criminal
- Claims for money, such as personal injury or malpractice
- Traffic court
- Any fee generating matters

**The Family Defense Center**

Intake line at **312-251-9800 x. 18**

Fill out a contact form online at <http://www.familydefensecenter.net/contact/>

Cases taken:

- Ongoing DCFS investigations for abuse or neglect
- A limited number of Juvenile Court cases in which DCFS is attempting to take protective custody if we have been counseling the client during an open investigation
- Civil rights cases alleging violations of the 4th and 14th amendments.

# Immigration Law

## Latinos Progressando

Walk in appointments at **3047 W Cermak Road** or call **(773) 542-7077 (Ext. 10)** to speak to us for more information

- **Immigration legal services:** Legal consultations available for walk in appts.

## National Immigrant Justice Center

National Immigrant Justice Center  
208 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1300, Chicago, Illinois

Heartland Human Care Services  
5715 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, Illinois

Call 312-660-1370 or email [immigrantlegaldefense@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:immigrantlegaldefense@heartlandalliance.org).

- **Unaccompanied immigrant children:** Legal services for children who entered the United States without a parent or guardian when they were under 18 years old.
  - **Unaccompanied children?**  
Call 773-672-6550 on Thursdays between 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
- **DACA:** Legal assistance for eligible youth and their families seeking to apply for deferred action and employment authorization.
- **Asylum seekers fleeing their homelands:** If you meet the following requirements, you may be eligible for asylum:
  - You are currently present in the United States
  - You cannot return to your home country because you have been persecuted in the past by the government or by a group that the government cannot or will not control or fear you will be persecuted in the future.
  - You have been or will be targeted for persecution in your home country because of your religion, political views, race or nationality, or because you are a member of a particular social group.
  - **Seeking Asylum?**  
Call 773-672-6555 on Thursdays at 9 a.m. *This hotline closes each week once all appointments are filled. If your call is not answered, please try again the following week.*
- **Detained immigrants:** Contact information for the Detention Project intake line should be posted near the phones in Illinois detention centers so that detained individuals can locate legal aid. Family members and friends may also contact NIJC on behalf of loved ones who are detained.
  - NIJC monitors detention conditions and reports of mistreatment and human rights violations against detained immigrants in jails throughout the country. While NIJC cannot promise to respond to every inquiry, we make note of every complaint we receive and make our best effort to bring serious issues to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

- Call the NIJC Detention Project on Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
    - **Detained immigrants** call collect at (312) 263-0901 or use the free platform and NIJC's 3-digit code, 565.
    - **All others call** (312) 660-1370 or (773) 672-6599.
- **Removal/deportation defense:** Legal representation for immigrants who are in deportation proceedings
  - Call 312-660-1370 or email [immigrantlegaldefense@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:immigrantlegaldefense@heartlandalliance.org).
- **Applications for Lawful Permanent Residence:** Assistance in completing and filing applications for lawful permanent residence (also known as a green card).
  - Call 312-660-1370 or email [immigrantlegaldefense@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:immigrantlegaldefense@heartlandalliance.org).
- **Family-based immigration:** Legal assistance for permanent residents and U.S. citizens who want to apply to bring family members to the United States or to allow family members in the United States to adjust their status.
  - Call 312-660-1370 or email [immigrantlegaldefense@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:immigrantlegaldefense@heartlandalliance.org).
- **Visas for immigrant victims of crimes** Assistance in obtaining a visa for immigrants who have been a victim of a crime and are willing to assist law enforcement in the investigation of that crime.
  - Call 312-660-1370 or email [immigrantlegaldefense@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:immigrantlegaldefense@heartlandalliance.org).
- **Legal protections for immigrant victims of family violence:** Legal assistance for men and women who qualify for immigration benefits under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) because they have been abused by a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- **Individuals Seeking Appeals:** We also represent individuals who lost their cases before an immigration judge and are seeking help with an appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals or to any of the United States Courts of Appeals. If you would like help with an appeal, please note that the process is very time sensitive. Therefore, the best way for you to request assistance is by phone or by sending your case materials to us by email
- **LGBTQ Immigrants:** NIJC's LGBT Immigrant Rights Initiative provides legal services to low-income immigrants who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) and those who are living with HIV.
  - **LGBTQ needing immigration assistance?**  
Call (773) 672-6551 on Wednesdays and Fridays between 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or email [lgbtimmigrants@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:lgbtimmigrants@heartlandalliance.org).

**Qualifications** Please note the following limitations on our services:

1. **Income:** NIJC serves low-income immigrants. If your income exceeds our guidelines, we will refer you to a private attorney in your region.
2. **Geography:** Our direct representation work is limited to the Midwest, mostly those appearing before the Chicago immigration courts. This limitation does not apply to detained individuals or those seeking assistance with an appeal.
3. **Fees:** In most cases, we charge a fee for case screening. Once we accept your case, the cost depends on the kind of services you need and your ability to pay (asylum representation is free). If you are concerned that you will be unable to pay for our services, you can raise those concerns during your initial consultation.

## World Relief Chicago

- **Immigration and citizenship consultations:**

- Consultations to determine eligibility for immigration benefits and naturalization
- Applications for U.S. citizenship
- Family-based petitions, including consular processing
- Applications for permanent residence for refugees, asylees, persons paroled in the public interest and immigrants in general.
- Applications for Work permits
- Applications for Travel Documents and Re-entry Permits
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Applications for U-Visas and VAWA (Violence Against Women Act)-Self Petitions. These services are provided on a limited basis
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Religious workers visas, on a limited basis. Other employment-based immigration services are not provided
- Referrals as appropriate

- **\*\*\*\*If you have a new immigration question or case, call our office at (773) 583-9191 to schedule an appointment.** Both immigration and citizenship consultations are offered on Tuesday mornings, and citizenship consultations are offered on Monday afternoons. A \$50 fee will be charged for the initial consultation. For additional legal services, affordable fees will be assessed.

- **Citizenship services:** Assistance with the process of attaining citizenship.
- **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Services:** Make an appt to discuss your eligibility at 773-583-3010 or walk in consultations every Tuesday.

# Domestic Violence Law

## Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

555 W Harrison, Suite 1900  
Chicago, IL 60607  
(312) 325-9155

- **Orders of protection:** Our Order of Protection Clinic is open from 8:30 a.m. until we reach capacity (as late as 1:30 p.m.) most days that the courthouse is open. Our staff can help you decide if an order of protection will help keep you safer. If we are able to take your case, we will prepare the court papers and represent you in court.
- **Family Law:** Free legal assistance and referrals to low-income clients to help them achieve safety from abusive relationships. DVLC provides representation in family law cases involving civil orders of protection, dissolution of marriage, custody, visitation, and child support.

**Immigration:** Free immigration law services for victims of domestic violence.

### What is a U Visa?

The U Visa is a way for non-citizen crime victims to get legal immigration status in the United States. To apply, you must show that you are a victim of a qualifying crime (including domestic violence) and that you have cooperated with law enforcement or the courts about the crime. If granted, the U Visa provides three years of legal status and the right to work in the United States. After three years, you may be able to change the U Visa into lawful permanent residence (green card) status.

### What is a VAWA self-petition?

A VAWA self-petition is a way to get the immigration status that an abusive family member could have gotten for you, but did not. For example, the non-citizen wife of a United States Citizen husband is eligible for a green card, but the husband must complete the immigration paperwork. VAWA allows you to get that status without the help or knowledge of your abusive family members. People who are married to or the parents of abusive US citizens can apply, and people who are married to abusive green card holders can also apply. You can get a VAWA self-petition even if you are divorced, but you must file the VAWA within two years of the judgment of divorce. If your abusive family member helped you file for a conditional green card, we can help you file to remove conditions.



## Metropolitan Family Services

- **Call 312-986-4200** Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to determine if you qualify for an assessment. Spanish-language assistance is available. Appointments are available in several Chicago neighborhoods as well as in the Loop.

## Chicago Legal Clinic

- **Domestic Violence Program.** The Clinic offers a full range of free legal services to victims of domestic violence. Last fiscal year, the Program served 735 victims.
  - **Call or email at 773-731-1762** or contact <http://www.clclaw.org/contact.aspx>

## Life Span

70 E. Lake Street

Suite 700

Chicago, IL 60601

Tel: (312) 408-1210

Email: [life-span@life-span.org](mailto:life-span@life-span.org)

Our attorneys provide representation for victims of domestic violence in divorce, custody, visitation, Orders of Protection (OP) and other issues presented in Cook County's Domestic Relations Division.

- **Domestic Violence issues:** Divorce, child custody, orders of protection, civil no contact order, legal advocacy
- **Sexual Assault:** Representation on civil no contact orders, legal advocacy with issues stemming from the assault
- **Immigration:** VAWA Self-Petition, U-VISA, Battered Spouse Waiver