

SPECIAL PROJECT

JUSTICE IN THE SCHOOLS

FREE SCHOOL-BASED LEGAL SERVICES



LEGAL AID
OF WESTERN MISSOURI



The Justice in the Schools (JTS) Legal Clinic provides free legal services to low-income families in the Kansas City Public School District (KCPS) and Hickman Mills (HM) school district who are affected by the high student mobility rates caused by housing, financial, and family instability.

By providing legal services to the families struggling with instability, the school districts have been able to be proactive in their fight to keep students on track for graduation and provide long-term solutions to stabilize our communities.

APPLICATION

REQUIREMENTS:

In order to qualify for the clinic's services, you must:

- + Have a student enrolled in the Kansas City (Mo) Public School District or the Hickman Mills (HM) School District.
- + Meet our income requirements.
- + Have a legal issue within the scope of our services.

If you are unsure if you meet all of the above criteria, please feel free to call the office and apply.

HOW TO APPLY:

Currently JTS welcomes clients to call our office to either begin the application over-the-phone or to set up an appointment to meet with an intake specialist in person.

We respect your privacy and will not share your information, unless you want us to.

If you do not talk to a staff member – please leave a message and someone will get back to you. Do not wait too late if it is an emergency.

COST OF LEGAL AID:

Our service is FREE. You may be asked to pay court costs or other filing fees. Please apply even if you think you can't afford it.

TRANSLATORS & SPECIAL NEEDS:

Available by request.

OUR PRACTICE AREAS

Issues We Can Assist With:

- + Public and Subsidized Housing Issues
- + Landlord/Tenant Law (Eviction Defense)
- + Family Law and Guardianships
- + Domestic Violence Protection
- + Foreclosure Prevention
- + Healthcare
- + Food stamps, TANF, SSI, and Medicaid
- + Consumer Matters (car, loan issues, etc.)
- + Denial of Unemployment Benefits

Issues We Can't Assist With:

- + Personal Injury lawsuits
- + Worker's Compensation
- + Criminal Cases, including traffic violations

If you qualify for our services, we may do one of the following things:

- + Advise you about how to solve your problem yourself. We may also give you some written information about your legal rights.
- + Ask you to send us more information about your case. We will review it before we meet with you again to give more advice.
- + Do some legal research and discuss your legal issues before we advise you.
- + Represent you in court or at a hearing.

If we are unable to take your case, we may be able to refer you to other agencies or resources that can help you with your legal problem.

IMPACT & VISION

WHAT IS STUDENT MOBILITY?

Student Mobility is defined as the movement of students between schools and/or school districts within a single school year.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

Students who are highly mobile are said to have lower grades, less classroom engagement and more issues with attendance and/or disciplinary matters. Trends show that students faced with high mobility are less likely to complete their education in traditional time frames.

WHAT IS OUR VISION?

By providing accessible services to families of these two districts, we hope to get them the help that they need in a rapid and more holistic manner. Our clients have access to our offices Monday - Friday, and can meet with JTS staff at their student's school building or at one of our main offices. Ultimately we believe that through our efforts we will see a positive change in students' grades, participation in class, attendance, and parent support.



JUSTICE IN THE SCHOOLS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

FOR KCPS FAMILIES:

Visit:

lawmo.org/justice-in-the-schools

www.kcpublicschools.org/justice

Like us on Facebook at:

@justiceintheschools

Contact Us:

+ Tel: 816-418-2062

FOR HM FAMILIES:

Visit:

kclinc.org/justicehmsd

Contact Us:

+ Tel: 816-410-8432

