

A photograph of a family walking away from the camera on a dirt path towards a sunset. A woman in a striped shirt and jeans holds the hand of a young child in a white dress, who is holding the hand of a man in a dark polo shirt and jeans. The background is a warm, hazy sunset with silhouettes of trees.

Lifesaving
Justice
www.CollierLegalAid.org *for All*

Lawyers Changing Lives

When a mother fears for her life when she can't obtain an injunction for protection from her abusive husband, when a 98-year-old WWII Veteran is on the brink of homelessness as foreclosure looms, and when a child born with half a heart and has her essential medical disability benefits inexplicably cut, endangering her life and her family's financial stability, where can they turn?

Legal Aid Service of Collier County (LASCC) is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free civil legal services to Collier County residents who face matters with life-altering significance. Through the generous support of donors, Legal Aid is able to provide a critical safety net for the community.

More than 35 professionals make up this amazing team, with pro bono assistance from volunteer attorneys. LASCC staff also regularly provide community legal education programs for the poor.

Legal Aid Service of Collier County ensures fairness for all Collier County residents in the justice system, regardless of how much money they make. Legal Aid provides access to legal help for the most vulnerable people in our community, allowing them to protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families.

Since 2004

For many low-income individuals and their families, Legal Aid Service of Collier County is the only agency available to provide free legal assistance. LASCC has provided assistance to more than 20,000 Collier County residents.

The last year shows the dedication of its staff and volunteers:

2,600 Clients Served

\$1,000,000 Total
Economic Benefit to Clients

450 Clients Assisted with
Housing Issues

600 At-Risk Children Served

150 Domestic Violence
Survivors Assisted

312 Seniors Served



The Solution

What Legal Aid Service of Collier County does for its constituents:

Protect children. Every at-risk child--abused, neglected, or abandoned--must be afforded representation to provide for their safety, health, education, shelter, and safe living conditions.

Protect victims. Every victim of domestic violence, assault, or other abuse must be provided with legal assistance to secure their safety and wellbeing.

Prevent homelessness. All households who are at risk of homelessness through foreclosure or eviction.

Protect the elderly and disabled. Low-income seniors, veterans, and the disabled are among the most vulnerable.

Safeguard human rights. Human trafficking victims, victims of severe domestic violence, unaccompanied children, and political asylees.

Educate those with learning disabilities. Every child has the right to a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive academic environment possible.

Promote healthy home environments. A parent should not lose custody of their children simply because they cannot afford legal counsel.



Saving a Single Mother from Homelessness

A single mother of a young child was being unlawfully 'evicted' from her rented apartment. The Landlord was upset that she reported a dangerous mold condition in the apartment. She paid for a mold inspection, and Collier County Code Enforcement issued a citation against the owner. When she tendered her rental payment by mail, the landlord refused to accept it.

Without any formal legal eviction notice or due process, the landlord simply changed the lock on the client's apartment and denied her gate code access to the community. He even unlawfully towed her car!

The client came to LASCC for help, and the Project attorney filed a complaint seeking damages. The attorney was able to secure a settlement of the case that included a full return of the client's security deposit and \$2,000 in damages from the Landlord. This money was instrumental in the woman's ability to obtain new, safe, and affordable housing for her and her child.

Ways to GIVE

The fundamental right of “justice for all” is at risk for millions of Americans. As funding for legal aid programs decreases and the need for civil legal aid increases, access to free legal assistance is becoming increasingly scarce. At LASCC, we believe that the amount of money a person has should not determine the quality of justice they receive. Together, we can work to close the justice gap.

Online Make a one-time gift at www.CollierLegalAid.org

Checks Make your check payable to Legal Aid Service of Collier County and mail to: Legal Aid Service of Collier County, 4436 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, FL 34112

Donor Advised Funds If you have a donor-advised fund, you can donate to Legal Aid Service of Collier County directly from your fund. For other donor advised funds, please contact your fund manager. To designate your donor-advised fund gift to support a specific area of our work, please contact Director of Development Jeff Ahren.

Planned Giving

- Life Insurance
- Real Estate
- Talk to your financial advisor

Civil Legal Aid Returns

A 2017 study found that every dollar spent on civil legal services for Florida’s low-income residents yielded more than \$7 in economic impacts. Some of the largest economic impacts result from legal assistance in obtaining the federal benefits, child support, wages, and unemployment compensation; monies that are spent and go directly back into our economy.

The study found that legal aid prevented:

\$2.9 Million in costs for emergency shelter for low-income families

\$50.6 Million in foreclosure costs

\$6.9 Million in costs associated with domestic violence



4436 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, FL 34112

9am - 5pm | Monday - Friday

(239) 775-4555

www.CollierLegalAid.org

Legal Aid Service of Collier County ("LASCC") is a Division of Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc., a private, not-for-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida. LASCC is charitable and tax-exempt as defined by IRS Code 501(c)(3). A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352 within the State. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State. LASCC retains 100% of contributions received.

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