



Legal Aid: Protecting Michigan Constituents by Delivering Critical Legal Services

Retaining Housing Stability



Bill and Edna, an elderly couple, believed they still owned the home they had lived in for decades. When Bill developed serious health issues, they were misled into signing away their deed under the guise of a loan – leaving them at risk of eviction from their own home. Legal Aid intervened and was able to stop the eviction, restore their ownership, and secure affordable repayment terms.

Removing Barriers to Employment



Jasmine contacted a Legal Aid office seeking assistance with the expungement of a misdemeanor conviction from nearly a decade ago. The record prevented her from returning to work as a nurse's aide. Legal Aid connected her with a pro bono attorney who successfully obtained the expungement, clearing the way for Jasmine to resume her career in healthcare.

Securing Family Safety and Stability



In a rural Michigan county, Angie, a young mother, turned to Legal Aid after learning her children had been abused by their father. While the Prosecutors' office handled the criminal charges, Legal Aid helped her secure a divorce and full custody. Legal Aid also connected her to counseling and housing services.

Protecting Consumers



Legal Aid represented Maria, an older adult with disabilities who uses a wheelchair, after she was taken advantage of by an unlicensed contractor while trying to make her bathroom shower accessible. The contractor overcharged her and failed to perform the work properly. Legal Aid helped her secure a settlement, so that she could hire another contractor to complete the job properly.

A Fresh Start for Families



Legal Aid represented Haley, a young mother, who sought legal assistance after separating from her husband following a domestic violence arrest. He contested custody and attempted to portray Haley as an unfit parent. Her husband's parenting time was suspended, and he was incarcerated for domestic violence. Legal Aid negotiated a settlement granting Haley full custody, child support and a fair share of the marital property.

Protecting Health



Sam, a 52-year-old with cognitive disabilities, relied on electricity to power a C-PAP machine that helped him breathe at night. When his power was shut off due to an unpaid balance, his health was at risk. Legal Aid contacted the utility company, explained Sam's medical needs, and negotiated power restoration.

Supporting Pro Bono Services



Briana's felony conviction from 2012 has been a barrier to her future – preventing her from finding work after she completed a Certified Nursing Assistant program. Legal Aid placed her case with a new pro bono attorney and provided training and support throughout the process. With help from the volunteer attorney, Briana's record was expunged, opening the door to long term stability and employment. In addition, the pro bono attorney is now trained to assist others that need help.

Empowering Veterans



A veteran came to Legal Aid seeking help to expunge a criminal conviction from 15 years earlier. In the years since, he had worked a series of low-paying jobs and often struggled to make ends meet. Determined to build a better future, he completed training to become an EMT and firefighter. However, when he applied for certification, the old conviction prevented him from moving forward in his new career. Legal Aid stepped in and helped him successfully obtain an expungement—removing the barrier that had held him back for so long. With a clear record, he can now pursue certification and significantly increase his earning potential.

Improving Policies



Legal Aid helped Robert, a single father of three children, who purchased a home and was working diligently to bring it up to code so his family could live there. After investing significant time and money, and securing multiple permits, he was shocked to receive notice that the City intended to demolish the home. The city indicated that the only way to stop the demolition was to file a circuit court injunction. Legal aid filed a lawsuit and obtained a court injunction stopping the demolition. Through negotiation, Legal Aid secured Robert an additional six months to make the repairs needed. After this matter resolved, the city changed its policy and now provides homeowners with information about how to appeal a demolition rather than requiring them to file a lawsuit.

Housing Security and Peace of Mind



Christine reached out to Legal Aid for help. She had paid the full prices for her mobile home more than two and half years earlier but was never provided with a title. Without proof of ownership, she faced ongoing uncertainty and risk. With Legal Aid's help, she asserted her legal rights against multiple responsible parties. As a result, Christine secured the title to her home.

Maintaining Housing Stability



A family purchased a home that later revealed serious foundation defects. When the lender charged off the loan due to the defects, the family believed the debt had been forgiven. Years later, when property values increase, the loan was sold to an investor who sought to foreclose on the property. Legal Aid represented the family, and the case was dismissed.