



**metropolitan**<sup>™</sup>  
family services  
— LEGAL AID SOCIETY —

**OVER 8,000**

FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED BY THE LEGAL AID  
SOCIETY EACH YEAR



## PROMISING SOLUTIONS & MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Legal Aid Society (LAS) of Metropolitan Family Services pioneered the concept of equal access to justice more than 125 years ago. Each year LAS provides critical legal services to more than 8,000 low-income families in the Chicago area in crucial areas of need, addressing domestic violence, elder abuse, trafficking, housing and consumer issues.

### SAFETY FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Securing orders of protection
- Preventing/reversing parental kidnapping
- Providing custody with safe visitation
- Securing financial support for children & abuse survivors
- Ensuring fair division of debts/property
- Dissolving abusive marriages

### PROTECTING SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Securing legal status to remain in the United States
- Reuniting family members and obtaining guardianship of minors
- Obtain restitution from traffickers
- Vacating/clearing trafficking-related criminal records

### HOUSING AND CREDIT

- Preventing loss of home due to foreclosure, wrongful eviction from private or public housing
- Fighting illegal debt collection practices
- Preventing utility shut-offs
- Fighting substandard housing conditions

### PROTECTING THE ELDERLY

- Securing orders of protection for the physically abused and/or financially exploited
- Establishing financial and health care powers of attorney
- Establishing guardianships to manage finances and maintain independent living
- Representing grandparents on support, custody and visitation issues

## METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES

empowers families to learn, to earn, to heal, to thrive. Since 1857 Metropolitan Family Services has been the engine of change that empowers Chicago-area families to reach their greatest potential.

### ATTACKING THE WHOLE PROGRAM

- Legal Aid Society clients receive priority for counseling and other social services and financial assistance through the partnership with Metropolitan Family Services.
- We partner with Metropolitan's Public Policy team to advocate for laws that protect the rights of our clients and low-income families.

Community-based services offer legal advice and representation at the following Metropolitan centers:

- **Midway (Southwest Side):**  
Housing and consumer issues, and domestic violence
- **Calumet (far South Side):**  
Housing and consumer issues, domestic violence, elder law
- **North (Northwest Side):**  
Domestic violence

#### Suburbs

- **Southwest (Palos Hills, Blue Island, Markham):**  
Housing and consumer issues



## MPOWERING moments

Charlene lived in a public housing complex plagued by gangs and violence when she came to the Legal Aid Society. She had been referred by one of Metropolitan Family Service's domestic violence counselors. Charlene had been married over 40 years. She stayed at home to raise the couple's children and had no income or work experience when her abusive husband abandoned her. He refused to provide Charlene with any financial help. She was subsisting on a small social security check each month. Working with the counselor, the Legal Aid Society was able to locate senior housing in a safe neighborhood and helped her through the application process. LAS was able to obtain a divorce and an award of \$100,000 as Charlene's share of the marital property. Today she lives free from poverty and abuse and fills her days with visits from her children and grandchildren.

