



**Community  
Legal Aid**

**Family Preservation Project**  
Hampden County, Massachusetts

**Do you have an open investigation or clinical case with the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families (DCF) and fear losing your children? We may be able to help.**

Too often, children are placed in foster care because their parents lack access to safe housing, quality health and mental health care, food, and appropriate educational services. Other families lack the money to hire a lawyer to protect themselves against domestic violence. These poverty-induced problems are not the equivalent of parental neglect or abuse and should not mean children are separated from their families.

**If you have an open DCF case, CLA's Family Preservation Project may be able to offer services to address any of the following civil legal issues:**

- Family Law Matters (Divorce, Custody, Visitation, and Child Support)
- Orders of Protection (Harassment Prevention and Restraining Orders)
- Safe Housing (Eviction Defense, Access to Affordable Housing Programs, Problems with Rental Vouchers, and Housing Discrimination)
- Shelter and Homelessness
- Access to Public Benefits (TAFDC, EAEDC, Food Stamps/SNAP, Unemployment Benefits, and Disability Benefits)
- Health Care (MassHealth and Medicare)
- Education Law (Special Education and Disciplinary Issues)

**By providing comprehensive stabilization services to families in need, Project staff will work to prevent unnecessary DCF removals, keep families intact, and avoid the disruption and trauma of even short-term foster care.**

*Community Legal Aid provides free civil legal services to low-income and elderly residents of Central and Western Massachusetts. We work to assure fairness for all in the justice system, protecting homes, livelihoods, health, and families.*



## **Contact Us**

Community Legal Aid  
One Monarch Place, Suite 400  
Springfield, MA 01144  
Phone: 855-252-5342  
[www.communitylegal.org](http://www.communitylegal.org)