

What is Project HEAL?

Project HEAL is a partnership between the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) and the Harriet Lane Clinic at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center.

MVLS, created in 1981, is a non-profit organization, whose mission is to provide quality civil legal services to people in need. MVLS matches experienced professional lawyers with people who need legal help. MVLS has been successful in recruiting over 2,500 attorneys to take over 15,000 pro bono cases for low-income clients throughout Maryland.

The Harriet Lane Clinic has served children and their families in East Baltimore since 1912. The Clinic provides comprehensive health care services for more than 7,500 infants, children and adolescents. Services include general health care for children and youth, subspecialty care for adolescents, HIV infected patients, children with chronic illness, psychosocial support through social work and Child Life specialists, and special programs in literacy, fitness, obesity, injury prevention and legal advocacy.

Beginning in July 2003, MVLS teamed up with the Harriet Lane Clinic to create **Project HEAL**. **Project HEAL** is a bridge among attorneys, doctors, social workers and health advocates, enabling them to work together for the benefit of children and adolescents needing both legal and medical assistance.

Mission of Project HEAL

Project HEAL is a medical-legal partnership designed to offer children and their family free access to an attorney in a convenient and confidential manner. **Project HEAL** is designed to improve the health and welfare of children and adolescents by providing proactive legal assistance to them and their families.

How Can Project HEAL Help Me?

Many different things influence the health of your children, including legal problems. These legal problems can make health problems more serious or difficult to handle if not taken care of in a timely manner. **Project HEAL** provides legal advice, counsel, referral, and, in select cases, representation to children and adolescents and their families, who receive health care services at the Harriet Lane Clinic.

Project HEAL can offer you **FREE** legal assistance on many issues, including:

- Poor Housing Conditions and Opportunities
- Landlord/Tenant Problems
- Government Benefits
- Education—services, suspension, special education
- Family Issues—divorce, separation, custody, guardianship
- Immigration
- Social Security
- Disability Issues—accessibility, accommodations, services
- Domestic Violence
- Consumer Problems
- Taxes
- And many other legal issues

Am I eligible for Project HEAL?

Project HEAL provides legal advice and service to any child, adolescent or family that receives health care services at the Harriet Lane Clinic, regardless of family income or immigration status.

COST

A **Project HEAL** attorney is **FREE** of charge. You will not receive a bill for any legal advice or services that the **Project HEAL** attorney provides to you. *However, if there are any court costs or filing fees associated with your legal matter, you are responsible for these fees.*

How Can I Contact Project HEAL

Project HEAL is located in the Harriet Lane Clinic. You can contact **Project HEAL** in the following ways:

- You can contact the Director of Project HEAL, **Ms. Hope Tipton, Esq.**, directly. Her telephone number is 410-502-0058.

OR

- You can ask your pediatrician, nurse practitioner, nurse or social worker to refer you to **Project HEAL**.
- You **DO NOT** need a referral from anyone in order to receive legal services from **Project HEAL**.

How to Use Project HEAL

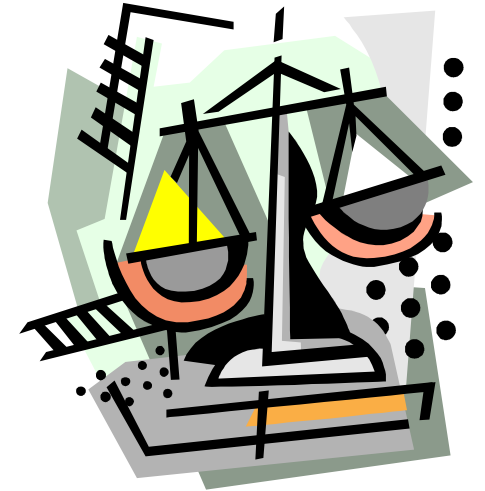
1. Need help with housing? Government benefits? Special education services? Immigration? Other legal issues? If you are a patient or a family member of a patient, who receives health care services from the Harriet Lane Clinic, then you should contact **Project HEAL**. Your doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner or social worker may also refer you to talk with **Project HEAL** if you have a legal problem.
2. Talk to the **Project HEAL** attorney about your legal problems and receive **FREE** legal advice and services.
3. If your legal problem falls within an area that **Project HEAL** does not handle, you may be referred to a pro bono attorney.
4. Services from **Project HEAL** are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the Harriet Lane Clinic.
5. You do not need to have an appointment at the Harriet Lane Clinic in order to receive services. You can talk with a **Project HEAL** attorney at any time.

For more information about Project HEAL please contact:

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Project HEAL

Health Education Advocacy and Law



Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service

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*Johns Hopkins Children's Center
Harriet Lane Clinic*