

What You Should Know

Counties eligible for MLP services:

- Harris County
- Montgomery County (north)
- Liberty County (northeast)
- Chambers County (east)
- Galveston County (southeast)
- Brazoria County (south)
- Fort Bend County (southwest)
- Waller County (northwest)

<u>Types of Cases MLP WILL take:</u>	<u>Types of Cases MLP does NOT take:</u>
<p>Improving housing conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mold• Rodents• Insects <p>Transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtaining guardianship of adult children• Alternatives to guardianship<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Medical Power of Attorney○ Power of Attorney○ Supported decision-making agreements <p>Securing public school accommodations for children with disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual Education Plans• 504 plans <p>Social Security – denials or delays</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Personal Injury○ Medical Malpractice (suing doctor or hospital)○ Child Custody○ Divorce○ Criminal○ Traffic Tickets <p><u>Immigration – Consult only</u></p>

What is considered to be an emergency case?

- Eviction cases/hearings or threats of lock-out
- Estate planning documents when death or surgery are imminent
- Cases with court hearing dates or administrative deadlines, i.e. Social Security

Will the MLP attorneys do a phone consult?

Yes, the MLP attorneys will do a phone consult ONLY if you are unable to make it in person for a consult. For example, you live in the Dallas area, but need an information only consult.

What is the income to qualify for a volunteer attorney?

Families below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines can receive extended services through the MLP. If your child receives Chip, Medicaid, or Supplemental Security Income you will likely qualify.

For more information, contact your Social Worker for a referral.

Guardianship and Alternatives

- A. Application for **guardianship** should be completed **9 months before the 18th birthday**.
- B. Application for **alternatives to guardianship (medical power of attorney, power of attorney, and supported decision making)** should be completed **3 months before the 18th birthday**

Immigration

- A. MLP does NOT provide lawyers for immigration cases.
- B. If a family wants to know if they have any immigration options, a consult can be conducted.
- C. If you are in need of an immigration lawyers, please call the Houston Immigration Legal Service help line at 1-833-468-4664

Immigrant Family Preparedness

- A. Houston Volunteer Lawyers has created a Power of Attorney for Minor Child for parents who are fearing detainment or deportation. This document will allow a caregiver to take over the care of the child in the event of detainment or deportation.

Landlord Tenant

- A. For a landlord-tenant case, you should bring your lease and any letter from the landlord or to the landlord.
- B. Information on the Texas Landlord-Tenant Law:
 - a. Texas Tenant Advisor: <http://texastenant.org/index.html>
 - b. Houston Apartment Association: <https://www.haaonline.org/renters>
 - c. For a sample repair request letter: <http://texastenant.org/repairs.html>

Family Law

- A. The MLP does NOT help with divorce.
- B. The MLP does NOT generally help with custody. In certain cases that can help if both parents are unavailable (incarcerated or deceased)
- C. The MLP can help a parent give Medical Power of Attorney to another relative.
- D. The MLP can assist with the Authorization Agreement for Voluntary Adult Caregiver form. Texas recognized that non-parents were caring for children with no uniform form or power of attorney to do so. This form addresses this need.

Social Security

- A. If you have not applied for social security, you must do so first.
- B. If you have been denied, you should appeal the denial on your own and ask for a referral to be made to the MLP. Generally appeals must be made 60 days from the date of the denial letter. This date is on top of the denial letter.
- C. If you are being cut-off of social security for due to medical improvement, you should appeal and ask for referral to MLP.
- D. If you are having an overpayment issue, you should appeal and ask for a referral to the MLP.

Education

- A. MLP does NOT assist individuals who wish to sue the school.

How do I get a referral?

A referral can be sent from the following TCH locations: Main Campus, West Campus, The Woodlands Campus, Community Care Practices, and Texas Children's Pediatrics.

For more information, contact your Social Worker for a referral.