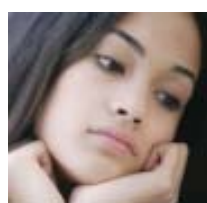




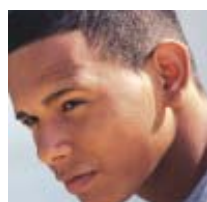
Teen Legal Advocacy Clinic
Center for Children's Advocacy

Teen Legal Advocacy Clinic

Providing legal advocacy to reduce truancy and dropout rates by resolving issues that affect academic performance.



**"I am living in a shelter.
Do I have to change schools?"**



**"My stepfather is abusing me.
What are my rights?"**



**"My boyfriend hits me.
Where can I go for help? What are my rights?"**

Individual Legal Representation **On site support.** **Improve educational outcomes.**

The Center for Children's Advocacy's on site teen legal clinic offers individual legal intervention through school-based legal services at Hartford Public High School, at youth shelters, and at other community-based teen sites.

Legal services are provided to help teens overcome the challenges that prevent academic success.

The clinic helps teens resolve overwhelming challenges, addressing issues such as:

- educational rights of homeless students
- abuse and neglect
- access to mental health care
- special education
- legal rights of teen parents
- emancipation
- immigration
- truancy
- sexual abuse
- teen dating violence
- improper denials of benefits

Systemic Advocacy **Change the policy.** **A better system helps all teens.**

Individual cases expose systemic issues. Through administrative and legislative advocacy, we promote changes to policies and practices throughout the state.

Systemic efforts include:

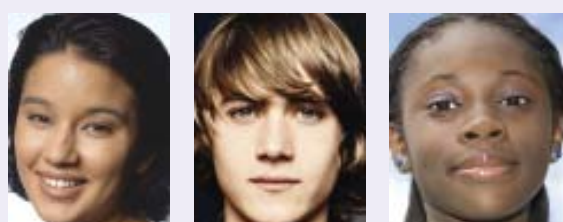
- policies to provide educational services to homeless students through various state agencies
- services for abused and neglected teens through the Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- education services for pregnant and parenting teens

Education and Outreach **Statewide training program.** **Improve legal representation and advocacy for teens.**

TLAC legal staff provide training and seminars throughout the state for attorneys, child advocates, teens and school staff, to help them recognize and respond appropriately to legal issues that impact a teen's academic success. Our focus on training and outreach increases the expertise of advocates who work with teens throughout Connecticut.

We offer teen-friendly pamphlets that address many of the legal issues teens may face, such as truancy, teen dating violence, confidential health care, emancipation, rights in DCF care, assistance for teen parents, financial aid for college, child support, and the educational rights of homeless students.

Pamphlets and additional information are available at www.kidscounsel.org. To request copies of the pamphlets, please call 860-570-5327 or use the publication order form on this website.



Center for Children's Advocacy

The Center for Children's Advocacy is a non-profit, public interest legal organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of the legal rights of poor children whose care is dependent upon Connecticut's judicial, child welfare, health, mental health, education, and juvenile justice systems.

The Center's projects and programs include:

- Child Abuse Project
- KidsCounsel Training Program
- Medical-Legal Partnership Project
- TeamChild Juvenile Justice Project
- Teen Legal Advocacy Clinic
- Truancy Court Prevention Project

More information is available on our website at:
www.kidscounsel.org

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