



FAST supports a family-driven system of care throughout West Virginia that:

- Focuses on parents, family members and caregivers of children who have mental or behavioral health needs
- Empowers parents to advocate for themselves and their children
- Empowers parents to build networks in which they can educate other families with similar circumstances
- Increases the voice of families and adolescents through community activities such as peer to peer mentoring, support groups and educational opportunities
- Assists families in the process of transitioning teenagers with behavioral health needs into adulthood

Financial support provided by the Division of Children's Mental Health, Bureau for Behavioral Health & Health Facilities, WV Department of Health & Human Resources

Working in partnership with the West Virginia System of Care

Stock Photo Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services (2007). Promotion and Prevention in Mental Health: Strengthening Parenting and Enhancing Child Resilience, DHHS Publication No. CMHS-SVP-0175. Rockville, MD.



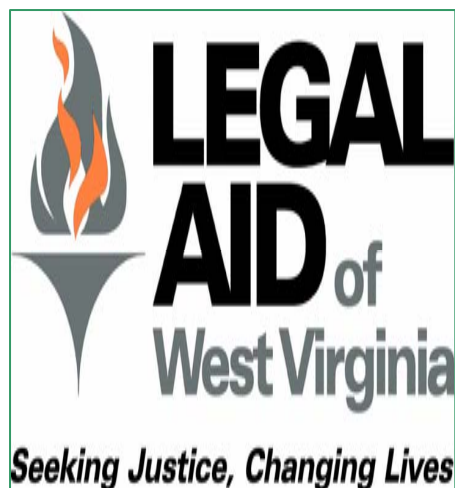
For additional information or to request services, please contact our intake specialist (toll-free):

1-866-255-4370

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**For more information
visit WWW.LAWV.NET**

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Supporting
West Virginia families
of children with
behavioral and emotional
challenges



Services

Legal Aid of WV is a statewide non-profit organization that provides family-driven advocacy services to children and adults with mental or behavioral health needs.

The goal of the Family Advocacy, Support and Training program is to develop a statewide parent and youth support network that will empower families to participate in planning, management, and evaluation of their child's treatment and service needs. The program assists in providing this support through:

Family Advocacy

- Legal Issues
- Educational Issues
- Social Security
- Multidisciplinary (MDT) Meetings
- Child Support
- Rights Issues
- Child Custody
- Clinical Review Process
- Adoption
- Treatment Planning Meetings

Support

- Pathways to Partnerships
- Resource Library
- Linkage & Referral
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Listserve for Information Distribution

Training

- Toolkit for Student Success
- Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) for Youth
- Individualized Education Programs (IEP)
- Conflict & Crisis Resolution
- Psychiatric Advance Directives



Stories

"Before the advocate started going with me, school meetings would have me in tears. My advocate was able to keep my son out of transitional school. With the advocate's help my son's school began to work with me and we formed a partnership. Now I am able to call for advice and attend school meetings alone. Thanks, Legal Aid."

"The three of us feel that we owe so much to you for all of the help that you have given us! If it were not for you we honestly believe that Jessie would have dropped out of school by now!"

"I'm very passionate about being a part of this, and I am the parent of a child with special health care needs. It brings me great joy to see that you value families, that you want to come alongside of these families and support them and give them the tools that they need, to build up these families and help them be strong and help them to be successful."

"I'm going to stand up, I'm going to have a voice, I'm going to tell everybody I can that there is a way out. Legal Aid is not just for people who are losing their homes, not just adults who are having a hard time, it's for children and adults with disabilities."

"I really can't say enough good things...they give with their hearts, they've reached into their own pockets, they've taken out of their own time. They do this because they care."

"Legal Aid changed my life. I received a diploma and I couldn't be happier."



Eligibility Checklist

- ✓ *Child must be 5 to 18 years of age or transitioning to adulthood up to the age of 22*
- ✓ *Legal Guardian agrees to participate*
- ✓ *Child has a Primary Mental Health (DSM-IV Axis I) emotional and/or behavioral diagnosis*
- ✓ *And at least one of the following:*
 - ✓ *Child's level of disability requires multi-agency intervention to improve conditions (services from at least 2 or more child-serving systems; one must be Mental Health)*
 - ✓ *Child has received Mental Health / Behavioral Health services for at least a year or these services are expected to last for more than a year*



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