



Community Legal Aid Society

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The Parenthood Project

Service areas: Columbiana, Trumbull, and Stark Counties

Mission

Community Legal Aid's Parenthood Project **promotes equal opportunities for non-custodial parents to develop, maintain, and nurture relationships with their children.**

Goals

The goals of Community Legal Aid's Parenthood Project are:

- To increase instances where both parents are involved in children's lives through legal advocacy;
- To remove barriers that keep non-custodial parents, especially fathers, from having relationships with their children;
- To identify and develop legal solutions for systemic patterns that create barriers for traditionally marginalized communities;
- To reframe narrative of noncustodial parents and reduce stigma around noncustodial parents;
- To collaborate with partner agencies and other community organizations to holistically serve clients' needs; and
- To improve education about healthy children including the infant mortality rates in minority communities, by empowering dual parent involvement and community collaboration to address social determinants of health

Program

Community Legal Aid's Parenthood Project serves non-custodial parents in Columbiana, Trumbull, and Stark counties in Ohio with a special focus on fathers, and Black fathers, in particular. Clients must be low-income and meet eligibility requirements for Legal Aid.

The Parenthood Project offers **three levels of support**, depending on each client's needs and specific situation:

- 1) Supporting parents in obtaining initial paperwork and paperwork through self-help clinics;
- 2) Providing assistance for parents representing themselves in navigating the court process; and
- 3) Representing parents in court proceedings when necessary to establish and enforce clients' parental rights.

In addition to the direct service described above, the Parenthood Project also seeks to **strengthen community awareness and education** around healthy parenting and infant vitality, in an effort to combat the disparate impacts of structural racism in the health and justice fields.

To meet the needs of the community, Community Legal Aid partners with other social service agencies and community organizations supporting intersecting communities, including traditionally marginalized communities of color.