



"and
Justice
for all!"



EXPAND LIMITED SCOPE LEGAL AID FOR PRO SE LITIGANTS IN FAMILY LAW

Ensure domestic violence victims & low-income families in crisis have access to Utah's courts

NEW FAMILY LAW FUNDING WOULD SUPPORT:

- "Lawyer of the Day" program connecting callers to the Utah Courts Self-Help Center to pro bono and staff attorneys for brief legal advice
- Legal representation at pro se mediations, hearings, trials
- Legal advice and document preparation at walk-in and web-based clinics
- Eliminate language and literacy barriers

THE NEED:

- Unrepresented parties weigh heavily on already over-burdened courts.
 - 53% of divorce petitioners are pro se
 - 80% of respondents in divorce filings are pro se¹
- Last year the Utah Courts Self-Help Center received over 19,000 calls people seeking guidance through the court system, providing procedural information and forms², but unable to provide legal advice.
- States across the country are investing in legal aid to ensure their courts provide access to all residents.

THE IMPACT OF LEGAL AID:

- 28,979 Utahns assisted last year, including 4,027 victims of domestic violence and 12,022 family law matters.³
- \$1.00 of Utah tax money resulted in \$9.08 of social return.⁴
- Legal aid family law programs provided \$1,146,816 in annual cost savings to Utah's court system.⁵
- 91% of domestic violence clients report no further abuse one year after the protective order.⁶
- 82% of abused children no longer abused after protective order.⁷
- Child support payments make up 40% of low-income households' income.⁸
- Legal aid addresses child support, parenting plans and health insurance matters, lessening demands on state welfare programs, the Office of Recovery Services and other social services.

For more information contact Stewart P. Ralphs
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1 Self Represented Parties—FY 2016 , Supreme Court Task Force to Examine Legal Licensing Report and Recommendations

2 Self Help Center of the Utah State Courts

3 Utah Legal Services and Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake client data

4 Community Services Analysis, LLC, Utah Legal Services Social Return on Investment Analysis and Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake Social Return on Investment Analysis for fiscal year 2012-2013.

5 Ibid

6 Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake, Client Survey Results

7 Ibid

8 Ibid

HOW OTHER STATES SUPPORT LEGAL AID:

Filing Fee Surcharges

Colorado—\$170,000

Montana—\$120,000*

Nevada—\$6,000,000

New Mexico—\$1,600,000

Oregon—\$5,950,000

Wyoming—\$1,459,000

Utah—\$0

State Appropriations

Arizona—\$1,000,000*

Colorado—\$2,500,000

New Mexico—\$1,982,000

Utah—\$645,000

Oregon—\$500,000*

* family law programs only

Please support \$150,000 ongoing funding - §78A-2-112

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