

Matrimonial/Family Law Services



- ◆ Provide direct representation in contested and uncontested divorces, including attaining equitable distribution, exclusive occupancy and child custody
- ◆ Obtain and enforce orders for child and spousal support that offer economic empowerment
- ◆ Obtain and enforce orders of protection that provide meaningful relief, including exclusion from the home
- ◆ Awards for child custody and safe and appropriate visitation
- ◆ Advocate for parents' rights in child neglect and abuse cases to preserve relationships
- ◆ Represent family members on kinship foster care issues to ensure their rights to custody, foster care payments and services
- ◆ Paternity
- ◆ Adoption to ensure permanency in the lives of children

www.nylag.org



The New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) is a not-for-profit law office providing free civil legal services to low income New Yorkers.

Founded in 1990 to benefit the thousands of impoverished New Yorkers that suffer unnecessarily each day, NYLAG offers solutions and helps change lives.

Matrimonial/Family Law Unit

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MATRIMONIAL/ FAMILY LAW UNIT

New York Legal Assistance Group

*Changing lives by
helping family
members through
difficult times*

a beneficiary of
UJA Federation
of New York





MATRIMONIAL/ FAMILY LAW UNIT

The compassionate and experienced attorneys in NYLAG's **Matrimonial/Family Law Unit** (FLU) make a difference for low income families going through difficult times.

The Matrimonial/Family Law Unit offers consultation, advocacy and representation to clients seeking assistance in all areas of family law, including child custody, visitation, spousal and child support, orders of protection, paternity, child protection, foster care, contested and uncontested divorces. Community outreach and education is also provided to lawyers, social service professionals, advocates and community members.

Family Law Unit Projects

The **Domestic Violence Initiative** assists victims of domestic violence in a variety of matters on a priority basis. The Initiative provides battered women with legal representation in child custody, visitation, spousal and child support, orders of protection and contested and uncontested divorces on a priority basis.



The **Kincare Project** strives to prevent the separation of children from their parent or relative caregiver by representing parents,

grandparents, and other relatives where their right to custody or their ability to care for the children in their family is threatened. Attorneys advocate to ensure the court and government agencies provide support and services to keep the family intact.

The **Economic Empowerment Project** provides the support needed to obtain economic empowerment after or during a divorce or separation by providing legal assistance on a variety of issues including securing and enforcing child and spousal support orders, money judgments and assessing government benefits. The Project creates the opportunity to obtain the financial education and vocational training needed to become self-sufficient.



Domestic Violence Clinical Center

The Domestic Violence Clinical Center (DVCC) is a year-long externship for second and third-year law students. Academic credit is typically available. Supervised by NYLAG attorneys, DVCC students litigate family offense and DV-related custody and visitation cases under a student practice order. Students learn the skills necessary to represent battered women in Family Court.

DVCC Projects

The **Courtroom Advocates Project** (CAP) trains and supervises area law school students to assist domestic violence victims with filing orders of protection in family court.

NYLAG's DVCC participates in numerous **Court Partnerships** which afford students the opportunity to work in innovative court programs addressing domestic violence. Partnerships include the Red Hook Community Justice Center, and Integrated Domestic Violence Courts.



Community Outreach and Development

Matrimonial and Family Law Unit staff also participate in community outreach, provide training to social service agencies, hospitals and lawyers, and are active members of coalitions and task forces shaping legal reform.

How to Contact Us

We are available for consultation in the areas of matrimonial and family law on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00am—3:00pm.

Please call our main number at 212.613.5000, ext. 2.

Emergency calls will be accepted Monday through Friday from 9:00am—5:00pm.

For information on other legal services provided by NYLAG, please visit us on the web at www.nylag.org.