



# **“The Model Medical-Legal Partnership”**



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## **Video Series**

**Presented by The Children's Care Network**

**Host: Brad Weselman, M.D., FAAP**

**Executive Director, TCCN**





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## **"Who is eligible for HeLP services?"**

Video 2

Guest Speakers

Robert Pettignano, M.D., FAAP, FCCM, MBA

Medical Director, Health Law Partnership

Professor of Pediatrics, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Pam Kraidler, Esq., Legal Aid Director

Health Law Partnership

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# Eligibility Criteria for HeLP

- Family/child or legal dependent receives care from CHOA
  - Emergency room
  - Urgent care
  - Inpatient
  - Outpatient at Center for Advanced Pediatrics
  - TCCN practice
  - Rehabilitation facility
  - Other affiliated organizations such as Marcus Autism Center
- Income at or below 200 per cent of federal poverty level
- Child or parent-legal citizen of the US

*\*The healthcare professional does not need to determine eligibility. This falls under the purview of the HeLP legal staff and is determined after a referral is made, during the intake process.*

# Referral Sources from Direct Contacts

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Therapists
  - Respiratory therapists
  - PT/OT
  - Speech-Language
- Social workers
- Other healthcare professionals
- Families who have previously used HeLP

*\* It should be noted that when a healthcare professional is involved, express permission for a member of HeLP's team to contact the patient is required prior to making the referral.*

# Informational Brochures Available at CHOA



## How can I contact HeLP?

- Call us at 404-785-3005
- Mail us at [www.healthlawpartnership.org](http://www.healthlawpartnership.org)
- Stop by our offices

**Children's at Emoryville Place**  
175 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 160  
Atlanta, GA 30340

**Children's at Emory**  
44 Peachtree Dunwoody Avenue  
1409 Lake Road, Suite 1408  
Atlanta, GA 30328-9900

**Children's at Hughes Spaulding**  
3rd floor Annex  
11 Jann HSB Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30306

**Children's Center for Advanced Pediatrics**  
1409 Lake Road, Suite 1408  
Atlanta, GA 30328-9900

Transportation services are available for patients who are unable to travel.





## HeLP

HEALTH LAW PARTNERSHIP

### Do you need a lawyer?

We may be able to HeLP.

## How can a lawyer HeLP me?

If you need legal services, HeLP is here for you to help you:

- Public benefits like Medicaid, ER, food stamps, TANF, WIC
- Custody, guardianship, establishing paternity
- Housing and utility issues
- Education needs
- Wills and other legal documents

If your issue is not listed here, we still may be able to help you. All you have to do is ask us.

There are some things HeLP cannot do for you but we may refer you to other people who can help. Please ask us so we know what you need.




## HeLP

HEALTH LAW PARTNERSHIP

### What is HeLP?

HeLP is a partnership between doctors and lawyers to help patients and their families with legal issues. HeLP is a free service. You do not need a referral from a doctor, social worker, or hospital staff to reach out to HeLP.

### Who can get HeLP?

You can get HeLP if:

- Your child receives care at any Children's Healthcare of Atlanta location;
- Your family lives at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level; and
- Your legal problem is the kind that we handle.

If you don't know if you meet these requirements, call us to find out.

### How do I get HeLP?

1. Call us at 404-785-3005. If we don't answer, please leave a message with your name, phone number, and why you are calling. We will call you back.
2. Complete an application. This can be done over the phone.
3. Send in any paperwork that the HeLP staff asks for.

[www.healthlawpartnership.org](http://www.healthlawpartnership.org)

# Other Ways to Refer

- Licensed attorneys and informational brochures at each CHOA campus
  - Egleston
  - Hughes Spalding
  - Scottish Rite
  - Center for Advanced Pediatrics
- Self-refer
- Community pediatricians or primary care physicians

# Application for Legal Assistance

- HeLP staff member completes intake
  - Completed by telephone or in person
- A legal check-up is part of the intake—designed after the medical H&P
- Families usually present with one issue—others are uncovered
- Details concerning the issue are gathered as well as personal information such as name, address, phone, members of household, income, etc.

# Questions Included in the Legal Check-up

- Are you having difficulty getting insurance to pay for services or medications prescribed by the doctor?
- Has anyone's application for SSI been denied recently?
- Do any of your children need accommodations they are not receiving in school?
- Have you or your children experienced violence or abuse in the home?
- Have you recently received any eviction threats?
- Are you able to afford food for your family?



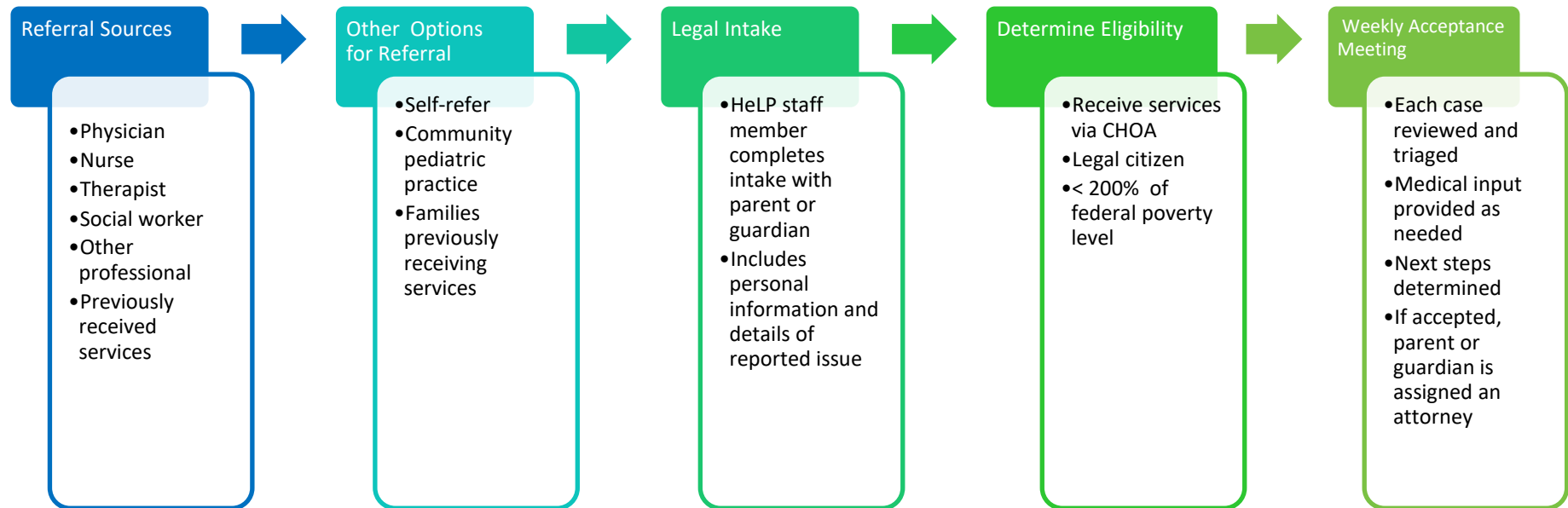
# Self-Help or Ineligibility

- Self-help assistance
  - No clear legal issue discovered
    - Example: Child may be eligible for SSI, but family has not applied
    - HeLP can provide guidance in applying for SSI and understanding of the appeals process
  - **Do not** provide representation if a client is seeking a divorce, but will provide other available resources
- Ineligibility
  - Family income is greater than the income eligibility guidelines
  - Immigration issues

# Next Steps in the Process

- If the case is accepted, a HeLP staff member is assigned to the case
- The HeLP representative contacts the family and provides details about the representation
- If HeLP unable to provide representation, HeLP may refer client to:
  - Other attorneys within the community who offer *pro bono* services
  - Other community organizations such as the Latin American Association, Catholic Charities, etc.

# The Referral Process



# Thank You

Thank you to Dr. Bob and Pam for outlining the eligibility criteria and the referral process for seeking legal services through HeLP.

In the next video, we will be discussing how TCCN member practices can access these services.

## Video 3: How Types How to Access HeLP Services?

Presented by Dr. Robert Pettignano, Medical Director of HeLP and Pam Kraidler, Esq., Legal Aid Director, Health Law Partnership

# **“The Model Medical-Legal Partnership”**

## **Video Series Presented by TCCN:**

Video 1: What is HeLP and why is it important to your patients and families in the community?

Video 2: Who is Eligible for HeLP Services?

Video 3: How to Access HeLP Services?