

Pro Bono at Legal Aid DC



TAKING A FAMILY LAW CASE

What Type of Family Law Cases Does Legal Aid DC Place Pro Bono?

Pro bono attorneys **represent survivors of domestic violence in child custody matters** heard in the DC Superior Court. They may also help with child support, divorce, or obtaining **civil protection orders** against an abuser. These attorneys **help secure the safety and stability of a family** in challenging circumstances.

What Can I Expect in a Pro Bono Child Custody Case Referral from Legal Aid DC?

- **Training, sample pleadings, and expert mentorship**
- Multiple **in-person court appearances**
- Attorneys have a say in **court scheduling**
- **Length of cases varies** significantly: Cases can settle within a month or go to trial a year after placement
- Potential of going to **trial**
- Attorneys can commit to **discrete matters**

What Opportunities Do Child Custody Cases Present?

- Primary Client Contact
- Oral and Written Advocacy
- Negotiations
- Gathering Evidence
- Witness Interviews
- Taking and Defending Depositions
- Trial Experience

"I got to do everything. I handled all of the motions practice, status hearings, and took my first telephonic deposition. With so much court time, I became very comfortable in front of the judge... It was a great professional opportunity."

NICKOLAS BARBER

Most litigants navigate these cases **without counsel.**

According to the DC Access to Justice Commission:

83% of plaintiffs **93%** of respondents

are **unrepresented** in Family Court divorce and custody cases



Contact: Danielle Rowan
drowan@legalaiddc.org

legal
aiddc

  
[@LegalAidDC](https://www.instagram.com/LegalAidDC)
[legalaiddc.org](https://www.legalaiddc.org)