

Kansas Legal Services - Medical-Legal Partnership with Children's Mercy Hospital



In August, 2009, the Kansas-Focused Medical-Legal Partnership for was implemented in partnership with Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas, funded by the Greater Kansas City Health Care Foundation. KLS staff provide legal assistance to persons using the health center' services who are referred by a medical staff member.

The relationship between poverty and ill-health is many times bi-directional: poverty contributes to ill health and ill health contributes to poverty. Individuals and families must have their basic needs met in order to be healthy and achieve their potential. When basic needs are not met, poor health outcomes occur.

Health is dependent on the social well-being of the family -- and many times health relies on legal along with medical remedies. For example, a child may have asthma that is exacerbated by moldy walls in a house. KLS staff working with a landlord to clean up the problem will positively affect the child's health.

The medical-legal partnerships rely on the collaboration between health care professionals and legal staff. Healthcare staff is trained to screen clients for possible legal issues and refer clients to legal staff. Legal issues may be as simple as advice or more complex, such as representation.

Read more about medical-legal partnerships flourishing across the country at the website for the [National Center for Medical-Legal Partnerships](#).

Last updated on August 19, 2024.

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The infographic is titled "STEP 1: ASK FOR THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY (FAP)". It contains a bulleted list of points: "FAP explains" (with sub-points: "Who qualifies", "What help is available", "How to apply") and "Hospital MUST give FAP information to you for free". A callout box says "Please (b) n't wait — ask as soon as you get a bill". To the right is a photo of a woman in a wheelchair at a desk.

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A badge from GreatNonprofits. It features a gold seal with "GREATNONPROFITS" and "TOP-RATED NONPROFIT" and a teal banner with "TOP-RATED". To the right, it says "YOU ARE A TOP-RATED NONPROFIT". Below the badge, it says "Congrats! You've won a spot on the 2025 Top-Rated List!".

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