

Legal Resources in Illinois for Issues Dealing with HIV

Whether you are just starting to establish an HIV testing program at your location, or if you are expanding a current program, it is important to have a contact for legal questions which may arise. Persons living with HIV may face confidentiality issues or even discrimination. The following is a list of some of the legal resources available in Illinois. All HIV testing sites should establish cooperation with a local legal resource. The AIDS Legal Council of Chicago can assist you in starting this cooperation. It also has a toll free number in Illinois to answer any questions concerning HIV testing and the law.

A person's HIV status is confidential according to Illinois law, which means that almost no one can disclose another person's HIV status without permission from that person.

All of the organizations offer free consultations and legal advice. Having a relationship with one of these organizations will help you to help your clients with issues concerning HIV+ status and confidentiality after testing, discrimination, employment, immigration, benefits, and other issues.

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago

www.aidslegal.com

Main Loop Office 180 N. Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60601

Tel: (312) 427-8990

Fax: (312) 427-8419

TOLL FREE in Illinois: (866) 506 3038

The ALCC says, "If you are HIV+ and live anywhere in Illinois, please feel free to call us with your legal questions. We will try to answer them. If we cannot, we'll try to direct you to others who can."

The AIDS Legal Council of Chicago also provides legal assistance in cases where an individual's HIV status, real or perceived, is the cause of his or her legal difficulties. We assist clients with discrimination cases, insurance disputes, return-to-work questions and confidentiality issues.

The ALCC has a toll free number (above) and can make referrals throughout Illinois.

Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago

www.lafchicago.org

Main Office 120 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 900 Chicago, IL 60603

Tel: (312) 341-1070

Fax: (312) 341-1041

LAF's HIV/AIDS Project handles legal problems for people living with HIV and AIDS. The problem does not have to be a direct result of the client's HIV status. The Project offers many legal services to people living with HIV.

The HIV/AIDS Project provides services in such areas as public benefits, family law, bankruptcy and other consumer matters, employment, housing and disability discrimination.

It also offers training and information in these areas for case managers and service providers.

Prairie State Legal Services

www.pslegal.org

Administrative Offices 303 North Main Street, Suite 600 Rockford, IL 61101

Tel: (815) 965-1081

Fax: (815) 965-5114

Since April, 1995, PSLS has maintained the HIV/AIDS Legal Services Project to deliver legal assistance at no cost to persons who are HIV+ or who have AIDS. The financial eligibility criteria to qualify for Prairie State Legal Services help have been expanded for this project.

Eligible clients must document their medical serostatus, and be a resident in one of the PSLS counties where project services are available. The counties covered by PSLS are in the central to northern parts of Illinois. Call the number above to determine which local PSLS office can assist you.

Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation www.lollaf.org

Legal Advice & Referral Center

TOLL FREE: (877) 342 7891 or (618) 394-7300

Administrative Office 8787 State Street, Suite 201 East St. Louis, IL 62203

Tel: (618) 398-0681

Fax: (618) 398-0681

Land of Lincoln is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation. It provides free civil legal services to low-income persons and senior citizens in 65 counties in central and southern Illinois. Its mission is to pursue civil justice for low-income persons through representation and education.

Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation has five regional offices, three satellite offices and a centralized telephone intake, advice and referral center called the Legal Advice & Referral Center (LARC). The regional offices are located in Alton, Champaign, Carbondale, East St. Louis and Springfield. The satellite offices are in Charleston, Decatur and Mt. Vernon.

While they do not have a specific HIV/AIDS "project", they are a good resource if you are living in central or southern Illinois. Call the LARC, and depending on what county you live in you will be given a local legal contact.