



Legal Counsel for
Youth and Children

Agency Overview



Who We Are & How We Work

Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC) improves the well-being of young people by advancing their legal rights. We accomplish our mission through direct legal representation, strong community partnerships, and systemic advocacy.

LCYC was founded, and continues to evolve, in response to community needs and gaps in critical legal services for youth. Our four program areas include: child welfare, juvenile court, youth and family immigration, and youth homelessness.

LCYC provides holistic legal services to over 500 young people annually in King, Walla Walla, and Benton-Franklin Counties.

LCYC does not have a shared or public office space. We operate as a virtual nonprofit, meeting with young people in the community, in locations where they feel safe and that they can access easily.

Access to Justice For All

Racism and discrimination based on gender identity, sexual orientation, and nationality threaten the lives of young people in our communities.

Youth of color, immigrant youth, and LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in the the child welfare and juvenile court systems. They are also more likely to experience homelessness than their peers.

Expanding access to justice demands an anti-racist approach to direct and systemic advocacy.

“Thank you so much for your help. I definitely would not have been able to accomplish this without you!!”

—Youth, age 17

Contact

www.lcycwa.org • info@lcycwa.org
Phone and Fax: 206-494-0323

King County: P.O. Box 28629, Seattle, WA 98118

Walla Walla County: P.O. Box 3296, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Benton-Franklin Counties: P.O. Box 92, Benton, WA 99320

Español

Si desea aprender más acerca de Abogados para Jóvenes y Niños (LCYC) y los servicios que ofrecemos, por favor, póngase en contacto con uno de nuestros abogadas bilingües:

Alexandra Narvaez • alex@lcycwa.org • 206-494-0323 x 704
Midori “Chach” Duarte White • chach@lcycwa.org • 206-494-0323 x 706
Naiomy DeLaRocha-Minckler • naiomy@lcycwa.org • 206-494-0323 x 712

Our Programs



Child Welfare and Juvenile Court

LCYC provides proactive advocacy to youth between 12 and 21 years in King County child welfare cases. Our representation for youth in child welfare cases focuses on securing their placement, family visitation, permanency, educational continuity, medical care, and behavioral health services. Youth direct the representation, setting personal goals in regards to whom they live with, where they go to school, and what services they or their families need.

We also represent youth in other juvenile court matters ranging from misdemeanors to felonies, and including At Risk Youth and Child In Need of Services matters in King County.

In child welfare and other juvenile court matters, LCYC's advocacy goes beyond what is provided through traditional public defense by collaborating with the youth, family, and community supports to identify and address the youth's civil legal needs and non-legal needs—assisting with education, housing, immigration, public benefits, and more. We gather and share information with each youth at the appropriate developmental level, helping them to understand and engage in a complicated and often frightening legal processes. We strive to help youth strengthen and build natural support systems, which will outlast the duration of our advocacy.

Youth Homelessness

LCYC's Youth Homelessness Program has been recognized by the Homeless Youth Legal Network of the American Bar Association as home to one of 12 model programs nationally. Our staff attorneys in King, Walla Walla, and Benton-Franklin Counties provide legal services to young people—12 - 24 years in age—who are or are at risk of experiencing homelessness alone. All minors struggling with homelessness alone have a legal issue; most young people struggling with homelessness have multiple legal issues.

We address civil legal issues that directly impact young people's safety, stability, and access to education, employment, income, and housing, including: warrants; record sealing; medical debt; emancipation; orders of protection; accessing Child Protective Services; landlord-tenant; identification documents; name and gender marker changes; immigration; family law; public benefits, and more.

Strong community partnerships with shelter staff, case managers, schools, and other service providers are a critical component of our model, helping LCYC to increase legal literacy, timely connect with youth in crisis, holistically meet a youth's legal and nonlegal needs, and identify systemic barriers and solutions.



Youth and Family Immigration

LCYC advocates for youth experiencing separation from parents due to changes in immigration policy and enforcement.

We also created a Safety Plan, educating parents at risk of being separated from their children to have a plan in place.

Finally, we represent youth who were abused, abandoned, or neglected by their parent(s) and may be eligible for a unique type of immigration relief, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS).