

Family Protection Project

The Family Protection Project supports and expands free and low-cost family law services for low-income same-sex parent families to enable these families to protect their parent-child relationships.

Children with same-sex parents often do not have a legal relationship to at least one of their parents. As a result, they can be denied social security benefits or can end up in foster care if their legal parent dies or is incarcerated. In many parts of the country, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) families can take affirmative steps to protect their parent-child relationships, but these steps often require the aid of an attorney and are thus out of reach for many families. Studies have shown that on average, same-sex parents with children earn \$11,000 less than married couples with children.

Currently, there are very few programs that are focused on providing free or low-cost legal services specifically for LGBT parents. Because this is a rapidly changing area of law, it is especially important for legal services and pro bono attorneys to have access to support services.

How can the Family Protection Project help my organization?

The Family Protection Project helps legal services organizations and pro bono attorneys gain the specialized knowledge that is necessary to adequately serve LGBT families. NCLR offers trainings and reference materials for attorneys on LGBT family law in targeted states. Additionally, we provide technical assistance to attorneys who are representing low income clients and helps low-income LGBT families find your services through our toll-free national helpline.

If you would like more information about the Family Protection Project, contact:

Cathy Sakimura, Esq.
National Center for Lesbian Rights
870 Market Street, Suite 370
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: 415.365.1329
Fax: 415.392.8442
csakimura@nclrights.org
www.nclrights.org

For information about legal rights in your state, or for help finding an LGBT-friendly lawyer:

NCLR Legal Information Helpline
800.528-6257
www.nclrights.org/gethelp

