



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

# HEALTH JUSTICE ALLIANCE


## Perinatal LAW

THE PERINATAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE & WELL-BEING (P-LAW) PROJECT PROMOTES THE HEALTH OF PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM PATIENTS THROUGH LEGAL ADVOCACY AND INTERPROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION AT MEDSTAR WOMEN'S AND INFANTS' SERVICES

### OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2021 LEGAL SERVICES METRICS

- 20** Referrals received from the social work team (*doubled* from the previous quarter)
- 19** Legal intake appointments conducted by P-LAW attorney
- 32** Legal issues worked on
- 17** Legal issues resolved
- 24** Total clients served

“I had given up and was really thinking that this was it for me. But I put my pride to the side and asked for help, and the team at WIS put me in contact with the P-LAW attorney. Now, I am ready to keep fighting!”  
-P-LAW client, a single mother of 6 with unsafe and unstable housing

 Reached out to 100% of referrals and conducted legal intakes with all patients contacted

Top Legal Issues this Quarter:

- Housing 41%
- Employment 28%
- Public Benefits 19%
- Family Law 12%








 Successfully won a SNAP benefits appeal for a pregnant, first-time mom for \$191 per month, helping her avoid food insecurity

 Obtained \$1900 monthly Short Term Disability approval (with \$4100 backpay) for a pregnant patient with hyperemesis

### INTERPROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION & CAPACITY-BUILDING

 18 MWHC providers and staff completed the legal issue training video surveys during Fall 2021, and 73 total viewers have watched the trainings

In Fall 2021, the P-LAW attorney:

-  Conducted a retreat with P-LAW and the WIS social work team to promote collaboration and efficiency
-  Assisted in the development of a screening guidance chart for the WIS social work team that helps them identify patient legal issues
-  Consulted with WIS providers and staff on patient legal issues
-  Created letters for reasonable accommodations in educational and workplace settings
-  Attended the Alliance for Health's Webinar on Policy Options to Advance Mental Health Care During Pregnancy
-  Participated in an interview for a documentary on Reproductive Justice in America
-  Attended DC Bar Pro Bono Training Series on DC Unemployment Insurance

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