



What is the Medical Legal Partnership of Southern Illinois (MLPSI)?

MLPSI is a partnership of Land of Lincoln Legal Aid and Southern Illinois Healthcare. MLPSI helps low-income patients in southern Illinois improve their health by addressing their health harming legal needs.

What is the cost to my patient? Who pays for this service?

The service is free for your patient. MLPSI is funded by Southern Illinois Healthcare through the Community Benefits Department. MLPSI helps to improve the health and well-being of patients throughout southern Illinois.

How can MLPSI help my patient?

MLPSI helps low income individuals improve their health by addressing their health harming legal needs.

"Health harming legal needs" are associated with social determinants of health such as poverty, lack of health insurance, low education attainment, and much more. Legal help is offered for the following issues:

- bankruptcy
- child support
- debt collection
- disability benefits
- divorce/custody
- domestic violence
- food stamps/SNAP
- foreclosure
- guardianship
- housing conditions
- Medicaid/Medicare
- wills
- TANF
- education

What are the eligibility requirements to be referred to MLPSI?

Patients should be "low income" (at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines) and meet various asset requirements. If your patient is on Medicaid, they will likely be eligible. However, medical staff are not required to determine eligibility. Financial determination will be made by MLPSI staff.

How do I make a referral?

Complete the "Medical-Legal Partnership Referral Form." Make sure to complete the form in its entirety. You will be asked to fill in the ICD10 code. Use the ICD10 that you believe is causing the health harming legal need. Only one ICD10 code should be used. Once complete, the patient must sign the form and it should then be faxed to MLPSI at 618-457-7877. The form can be found on the "Healthy Southern Illinois Delta Network" website at www.hsidn.org.

What are "appropriate" referrals?

A referral is appropriate when a patient has an issue that you have attempted to assist with, but you believe the patient needs legal advice or representation. Examples include:

- If a cancer patient needs and desires a power of attorney for property
- If a patient is being sued for a debt, they owe

What are "inappropriate" referrals?

Inappropriate referrals are referrals for matters that Land of Lincoln does not handle or matters that you have not discussed with your patient. Examples include:

- Any traffic or criminal cases
- Any issue related to medical malpractice

Does MLPSI assist in initial applications for disability benefits?

No, but MLPSI staff can provide education on when it is appropriate to apply for disability benefits. MLPSI staff may also be able assist when disability benefits are denied.

Should I refer everyone that has applied for or been denied Social Security disability?

No. Use your training and professional judgment. If the patient has been denied and you believe they should be eligible and their physician would support their claim, fax in a completed referral form. Medical documentation will be required when requested by MLPSI staff.

How soon can the patient expect to hear back from MLPSI for an initial assessment? Within approximately 48 - 72 business hours. Make sure to give the patient a " Medical Legal Partnership of Southern Illinois" brochure.

How long does it take for my patient to be served by MLPSI?

After initial intake, the time of service varies depending on the nature of the legal issue.

How will I know if my patient is being assisted by MLPSI?

Your patient’s referral status will be conveyed to you via e-mail correspondence. You can expect to receive an e-mail from an MLPSI team member.

Will I be updated on the final outcome of the patient I referred?

Due to confidentiality requirements, this information will not be shared by the legal team. Your patient can provide you with this information, if desired.

Who should I contact at MLPSI if I have a question or if I would like more information? Start by calling MLPSI Intake Specialist, Madison Olsen, 618-457-7800, ext. 6127 or e-mail mlpsi@lincolnlegal.org or e-mail Lana Crawford or Diane Goffinet directly.

Medical Legal Partnership of Southern Illinois

618-457-7800 or mlpsi@lincolnlegal.org

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