

family. health. education.

A child deserves a safe, permanent, loving family. A lawyer can help a child get one.

Children's Law Center works to give every child in the District of Columbia a solid foundation of family, health, and education. Children who have been abuse or neglected need a second chance to build a connection with loving adults who can support them as they grow.

Harmony and **Melody** were severely neglected and sexually abused; they both had significant developmental delays and behavioral issues when they came into foster care at ages 3 and 4. Ms. Callahan was already an adoptive mother of grown children when she began fostering the sisters. She wanted to adopt them, too, but she knew she couldn't help them heal on their own.

♦CLC found therapists and tutors for the girls and negotiated an adoption subsidy that would cover this critical care. The sisters are now happy, safe, and ready to start school.

Shonte, 15, didn't want another mom. Her biological mother wasn't perfect—she faced ongoing struggles with substance abuse—but Shonte loved her anyway. Still, Shonte did want someone reliable in her life. She thought of her great aunt, who had finished school and had a good job. Shonte wondered if there was a way to live with her aunt and maintain her relationship with her mom.

♦CLC taught Shonte and her great aunt about guardianship and created this legal link between them.

By age 11, **Greg** had lived with 8 different families during more than 6 years in foster care. He acted out to get the attention he craved, and sometimes he turned aggressive and self-destructive. Mr. Hill, Greg's mentor, was the only stable adult in his life. When Greg had another crisis and faced another move, he asked Mr. Hill to adopt him.

♦CLC helped Mr. Hill navigate the licensing process; the day it was completed, Greg moved in. CLC secured parenting classes and therapy so Mr. Hill could support Greg permanently.

Parents and would-be parents need help navigating the bureaucracy of the child welfare system. That's where Children's Law Center comes in. CLC attorneys practice the best kind of family law—supporting, strengthening, and sometimes even creating families. Whatever is best for each individual child—reunification, adoption, guardianship, or custody—CLC knows the paths to permanency. They make sure the hundreds of children like Harmony, Melody, Greg, and Shonte find the loving families they deserve.

Visit www.childrenslawcenter.org to learn more.