

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER DIVES DEEP

We don't ask what's wrong with a child, we ask what happened to them.



Tiffany's school has labeled her a "bad kid."

She's been suspended multiple times and is distracted in class. Teachers say she disrupts other students.

BELOW THE SURFACE

- Tiffany has **ADHD**, which makes focusing hard for her. She's frustrated because she can't keep up with her peers.
- Tiffany sometimes **falls asleep in class**, missing out on important lessons and assignments.



TIFFANY'S ENVIRONMENT

HER SCHOOL

- Tiffany's **school doesn't train staff** to identify and serve children with learning disabilities.

HER HOME

- The **landlord won't repair the furnace**, and it is often too cold to sleep. Also, the home has a mouse infestation.



HER FAMILY

- Tiffany's **father works long hours** as a truck driver and is often far from home, while her **mother works two jobs**.
- Tiffany's brother Jimmy has asthma, which flares up in the frigid, mouse-infested house. The family takes **frequent trips to the ER in the middle of the night**.

TIFFANY'S CITY

- In DC, black children like Tiffany are **7x more likely to be suspended or expelled** than their white peers.
- Despite being legally required to support students with learning disabilities, many DC **schools fail to provide the services** and accommodations students need.
- DC has a crisis due to **rapidly aging and unaffordable housing**.

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER'S RESPONSE

Tiffany's pediatrician refers her family to Children's Law Center. Our first step is to work with school officials to provide Tiffany the support she needs in the classroom each day.

Second, we get a **court order requiring Tiffany's landlord to fix the furnace and eliminate the mouse infestation** so that Tiffany and her family can sleep. Thanks to the repairs, Jimmy can breathe easier, too.

Finally, our team **helps Tiffany's family apply for additional financial assistance** through government programs to make ends meet.

CLC's systemic advocacy leads to citywide solutions. Our policy work is grounded in helping tens of thousands of District children since our founding in 1996.

In 2018, we **worked with DC Council to pass the Student Fair Access to School Act** to help keep thousands of DC students like Tiffany in school, learning.

We also secured funding, so schools could **implement special education reforms**.

We collaborated with the DC Council chair to develop new strategies to **hold landlords like Tiffany's accountable** for unhealthy living conditions.