



WASHOE LEGAL SERVICES
CASES AWAITING PLACEMENT
Cases Available as of July 1, 2020

General Law Cases

Family Law – Divorce (20-0129456)

Client is seeking an attorney to assist her with a divorce. They currently have an open CPS case, but the child was returned home on an in-home safety plan to mom and dad. Dad has recently gone back to his old, abusive ways and was removed from the home. Mom/wife is currently in the process of getting a reduced filing fee and beginning the paperwork. Custody and some personal property is involved.

Family Law - Defending against TPR (18-1120956) URGENT PLACEMENT

Client and boyfriend have been served by her sister and her husband with a lawsuit regarding both of their children attempting to terminate parental rights so the sister can adopt. Client is under the co-guardianship of her recently divorced parents. She has a low IQ, but is receiving services and making progress. She objects to the terminations.

The Guardianship matter is with Judge Walker. Our in-house attorney filed a motion advising Judge Walker of the termination action and requesting a hearing to see what the Guardians are doing to fight the termination. The TPR cases are set for trial on July 7, 2020.

Bankruptcy – Phone Consultation

Client is seeking guidance on bankruptcy issues. Client's husband was the sole provider for the family but is currently in jail and going to prison. Client is disabled and has two younger children. Client has questions about her options regarding filing for bankruptcy.

Record Sealing

Client needs phone consultation and review to see if he qualifies to have his record sealed. Client reports a CA conviction about 2 or 3 years ago and three NV DUIs between 15 and 10 years ago. Although the third DUI was charged as a felony, the client was put in a diversion program and reports that the last DUI was later reduced to a misdemeanor. Because of this fact, the pro bono attorney will have to examine applicant's record and look at which statutes the DUI was charged under and whether the conviction can be sealed or is specifically exempted under the record sealing statute. Additionally, the CA conviction can also prove problematic, which is why a thorough review of client's criminal record (NV and FBI) is necessary. Client may also have to be referred to CA-licensed attorney for advice on potential of sealing CA conviction.

If you or anyone you know is interested in taking on a pro bono case, please contact Marissa Otteson by phone at (775) 321-2059 or by email at motteson@washoelegalservices.org

Refugee Adjustment of Status (19-0125432)

Principal Applicant + 5 family members. The family is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Client's husband and brother were killed in the DRC, and she fled to Namibia and had to leave her children behind in DRC. Finally with the help of refugee organizations in Sub-Saharan Africa, she was able to reunite with her children in Namibia three years later. Client's niece also lives with her as part of the family.

Refugee Adjustment of Status (20-0127054)

Principal Applicant + 5 family members. This family is very similar to the family in the above matter. They are from Burundi, which has become quite dangerous over time. This family also has children that were born abroad

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