

Resource Code Card

KIDS LEGAL & The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital www.kidslegal.org

This card is designed to assist practitioners in Maine in identifying environmental and social problems impacting children's health and in providing direct resource information to families regarding benefits and services.

HOW TO REFER FAMILIES NEEDING SERVICES:

- Use this card as a screening tool to help identify problems facing the family and make referrals.
- Refer to social worker/case manager
- Call **KIDS LEGAL: 1-866-624-7787; 774-8246**

KIDS LEGAL

774-8246; 1-866-624-7787; TTY 828-2308
www.kidslegal.org

Free legal services to low-income* children and families in education, housing, public benefits, MaineCare and some family matters; trainings and consultations to providers serving low-income youth

*most children who qualify for MaineCare will qualify for KIDS LEGAL services.

GENERAL TIPS

- Suggest families apply for benefits:
 - Food Stamps
 - WIC
 - Welfare (TANF)
 - MaineCare
 - Fuel assistance
 - Social Security Disability/SSI
 - General Assistance
 - Subsidized Housing
- Encourage families to re-apply or request an appeal of services that they were denied. Due to deadlines, have families appeal first and refer to an attorney second.
- Ask about child's performance, attendance and progress at school.
- Document need for services in chart.
- Be willing to provide medical and other information to an attorney who is representing the family.

Questions or to update information, contact Lrhodes@ptla.org 10-07

MEDICAL-LEGAL HEALTH ISSUES

Things To Look For:

- Little or no income
- Unable to purchase enough food/poor nutrition
- Exposure to unsafe living conditions
- Risk of eviction/homelessness
- School failure or exclusion
- Lack of or inappropriate special education services for children with disabilities
- Children not living with parent or guardian
- Immigration issues
- Abuse (victim or witness)

SAMPLE SCREENING QUESTIONS

- Are you making ends meet?
- Do you have enough food for your family?
- Have you applied for public benefits?
- Do you have health insurance or MaineCare?
- Have you applied for housing assistance?
- Is the home you're living in safe?
- Have you received any notices from your landlord?
- Are your children going to school? Are they receiving an appropriate education?
- Do you need help with your immigration status?
- Are there fights in your home? Do they get physical? Do you have a safe place to go?

RESOURCES

[Statewide Resource Listing: www.kidslegal.org](http://www.kidslegal.org)

CHILD ABUSE and TRAUMA

To Report:

DHHS: 1-800-452-1999

Services:

Spurwink: 871-1235

- Forensic child abuse assessment

Advocacy:

Guardian ad litem (GAL) appointed for child/children; court appoints attorney for low-income parents of children removed from the home by DHHS

Complaint about DHHS:

Child Welfare Ombudsman Program: 1-866-621-0758

CHILD SUPPORT

Collection:

DHHS: Support Enforcement & Recovery:
1-800-371-3101

Advocacy:

[Pine Tree Legal Assistance: 774-8211; www.ptla.org](http://www.ptla.org)
Volunteer Lawyers' Project: 1-800-442-4293

DISABILITY/DEVELOPMENT DELAY

Services:

Alpha One: 1-800-640-7200
Independent living/assistive technology
Aspergers Association of NE: 1-617-393-3824
Autism Society of Maine: 1-800-273-5200
Behavioral & Developmental Pediatrics: 781-1814
Case Management Services Listings: 287-4251
Child Development Services: 781-8881 (Falmouth);
outside Falmouth, see www.kidslegal.org
Children's Behavioral Services: 1-888-568-1112
Iris Network: 1-800-715-0097 (visually impaired)
Maine Center for Disease Control: 287-8016
Maine Center on Deafness: 1-800-639-3884 (v/tty)
Maine Tourette Syndrome Assoc.: 428-3040
Pine Tree Society: 443-3341 (v/tty)
Social Security/SSI (income): 1-800-772-1213
UCP of Maine: 1-877-603-0030

Advocacy:

[KIDS LEGAL: 774-8246; 1-866-624-7787](http://www.kidslegal.org)

Disability Rights Center: 1-800-452-1948 (v/tty)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

Hotlines: Any 800 number can be called collect

- Nat'l hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- State DV hotline: 1-800-537-6066
- State sexual assault hotline: 1-800-871-7741

Shelters:

- Cumberland/Sagadahoc: 1-800-537-6066
- For statewide listing see www.kidslegal.org

EDUCATION

Maine Department of Education: 624-6600

Preschool:

Head Start: 287-5099

Alternative:

ME Home Education Assoc.: mainehomeed@yahoo.com

Community College System: 629-4000

Adult Education: 624-6752

GED Info: 624-6752

ME Assoc. for Charter Schools: 763-3576

www.mainecharterschools.org

See also *Teen Resources section*

Homeless:

Contact local school's homeless liaison

State homeless student coordinator: 624-6637

Special Ed Support for Parents:

Maine Parent Federation: 1-800-870-7746

Southern Maine Parent Awareness: 1-800-564-9696

Learning Disabilities Association of Maine: 465-7700

Merrymeeting Center for Child Development (Bath),
443-6200

Advocacy:

[KIDS LEGAL: 774-8246; 1-866-624-7787](http://www.kidslegal.org)

FOOD and NUTRITION

Services:

Food Stamps: DHHS, 1-800-452-1926 or local office
Food Programs: Preble Street Resource Center,
Portland Area: 775-0026

Outside Portland see www.kidslegal.org

General Assistance: Apply at local town office

- financial assistance

School breakfast & lunch programs: apply at school

WIC: 1-800-437-9300

Advocacy:

[Pine Tree Legal Assistance: 774- 8211; www.ptla.org](http://www.ptla.org)

FUEL and UTILITIES

Services:

Fuel Assistance – apply at local Community Action Prg

- Low Income Home Energy Assist. Program (LIHEAP)
- ECIP (emergency fuel assistance)

General Assistance: Apply at local town office

Emergency Assistance: Contact local DHHS office

Lifeline: low-cost phone services & install. Call local CAP
agency or phone provider

MPUC: 287-3831 (help with electric/utility terminations)

PROP: 1-800-698-4959

CMP: 1-800-686-4044

Bangor Hydro: 1-800-499-6600

Advocacy:

[Pine Tree Legal Assistance: 774-8211; www.ptla.org](http://www.ptla.org)

GBLTQ

PRYSM, southern Maine: 874-1022

Outright: Bangor: 990-3626; Portland: 888-567-7600

Outyouth Support Hotline: 1-800-969-6884

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, 1-800-455-4523

PFLAG: www.pflag.org

HEALTH INSURANCE/ASSISTANCE

Services:

MaineCare: DHHS, 1-800-977-6740

Katie Beckett Waiver Program: DHHS, 1-800-321-5557

- MaineCare option for over-income children
with serious health conditions

Healthcare Helpline: 1-800-965-7476

General Assistance: apply at local town office

Indigent Health Care Program (Portland): 874-8445

Children with Special Needs Program: 1-800-698-3624

- For children under 22 who meet income
guidelines & have eligible medical condition

Consumers for Affordable Health Care: 1-800-838-0388

Bureau of Insurance Consumer Div.: 1-800-300-5000

Advocacy:

[KIDS LEGAL: 774-8246; 1-866-624-7787](http://www.kidslegal.org)

[Pine Tree Legal Assistance: 774-8211; www.ptla.org](http://www.ptla.org)

HOMELESS

Homeless Crisis Hotline: 1-800-438-3890
Homeless Intervention Program: 577-3236
Statewide Shelter Listing: see www.kidslegal.org
Oxford Street Shelter, Portland: 761-2072 (men only)
Portland Family Shelter: 772-8339 (refer to General Assistance first)
York County Shelter: 324-1137
Advocacy:
Pine Tree Legal Assistance: 774-8211; www.ptla.org

HOUSING DEFINITIONS

Project Based Subsidized Housing:

Low-income families pay portion of income toward rent; subsidy pays the rest and stays with apt.

Section 8 Voucher:

Low-income families receive rent voucher. Landlords agree to take voucher. Tenants keep voucher when they move. Rent is based on family's income.

RAC:

Rental Assistance Coupon for those trying to better themselves (job training, etc.). Expires after 18 mos.

BRAP:

Low-income mental health consumers receive rent voucher. Rent based on family income.

Shelter Plus Care:

Rent voucher for disabled homeless and their families that also provide social services. Rent based on family income.

HOUSING RESOURCES

Subsidized Housing Application:

Local Public Housing Authority
Local Community Action Program (CAP) Agency
Maine State Housing Authority: 1-800-452-4668
Statewide Apartment Search: www.kidslegal.org

Unsafe Conditions:

Town Code Enforcement Officer: call local town office
State Senior Electrical Inspector: 624-8640
State Mobile Home Park Inspector: 624-8612
Lead Poisoning Prevention: 1-800-452-1942
Health Officer: Call local town office

Financial Assistance:

General Assistance: apply at local town office
Property Tax Abatement: apply at local town office
Low-income mortgages: 1-800-452-4668
ME Homestead Exemption: apply at local town office
State Property Tax & Rent Refund: 626-8475
Emergency Assistance: Local DHHS office

Discrimination:

Maine Human Rights Commission: 624-6050
Advocacy/Eviction/Foreclosure Prevention:
Pine Tree Legal Assistance: 774-8211; www.ptla.org
Volunteer Lawyers Project: 1-800-442-4293

IMMIGRANT and REFUGEE ISSUES

Tips for Immigrant Families:

- Receipt of food stamps, WIC and MaineCare will not affect immigration status
- All people, regardless of immigration status, are eligible for emergency Medicaid, housing, WIC, disaster relief, public school food programs and public school public education for grades K-12
- An undocumented person in the same household can safely help a US citizen apply for public benefits

Refer to an immigration attorney if:

- Family wants to change immigration status
- Undocumented survivors of child abuse/domestic violence who want to change immigration status
- Non-eligible immigrants may be entitled to benefits

Legal Assistance for Immigrants and Refugees

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP):
1-800-497-8505

- For immigration status and related issues

Pine Tree Legal Assistance: 774-8211; www.ptla.org

- Assistance with benefits and housing for legal immigrants

General Resource & Referral Assistance

Refugee Collaborative: 775-7915

Refugee Resettlement Assistance

Catholic Charities of Maine Refugee & Immigrant Services: 871-7437

INCOME SUPPORT

Types:

Apply at local DHHS office:

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Welfare for low-income families w/minor children: 1-800-482-7520
 - Food Stamps: 1-800-452-1926
 - Emergency Assistance
- Apply at Local Town Office
- General Assistance
Assistance with housing, food, utilities, household, and medical expenses

- Property Tax Abatement for homeowners
- Apply at local Community Action Program (CAP)
- fuel assistance
 - Section 8 housing vouchers
- Earned Income Tax Credit: 1-800-829-1040
Social Security Administration (must be disabled):
1-800-772-1213

State Property Tax & Rent Refund: 626-8475
www.maine.gov/revenue

Advocacy:

Pine Tree Legal Assistance: 774-8211; www.ptla.org
Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic: 942-8241

LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Hearing Impaired, Pine Tree Society: 885-0536 (tty/v)
See *Statewide Listing for Various Languages:*
www.maine.gov/dhhs/oma/MulticulturalResource/interpreting.html

LITERACY

Adult Learning Opportunity Hotline: 1-800-322-5455
Literacy Volunteers of Maine: www.lvmaine.org

MENTAL HEALTH

Crisis Services

Crisis Line: 774-HELP; 1-888-568-1112; 774-0700 (tty)
Suicide Prevention: 1-888-568-1112

Children's Case Management Services:

Case Management Listing Statewide: 1-800-660-5231
Comm. Health & Counseling Svcs: 1-800-924-0366
Northeast Occupational Exchange: 1-866-616-1626
Protea: 1-800-434-3000
Sweester: 1-800-434-3000

Spurwink Institute: 1-866-688-4573 (statewide)
Tri-County: 1-888-278-3521

WINGS: 1-800-823-2988 (5 northern counties)

Woodfords Family Services: 1-800-439-0314

Parent support group

GEAR: 1-800-264-9224

Assessment /Services, youth at risk of mental illness:

PIER Program, ages 12 to 25: 662-2004 (Portland)

Advocacy

KIDS LEGAL: 774-8246; 1-866-624-7787

NAMI Maine : 1-800-464-5767

Disability Rights Center: 1-800-452-1948 (v/tty)

OVERWEIGHT

Healthy Maine Partnerships: 287-5388

Healthy Maine Walks: www.healthymainewalks.org

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Planned Parenthood: 1-800-230-7526
Family Planning Association of Maine: 1-877-326-2345
Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center: 324-5752
STD Hotline: 1-800-227-8922
Facts of Life Line: 1-800-359-3359

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

AA central office: 774-3034
AlAnon/AlaTeen: 1-800-498-1844
Day One: 874-1045
Maine Tobacco Helpline: 1-800-207-1230
Maine NarcAnon: 1-800-974-0062
Methadone Maintenance: 774-7111 (Portland); 973-6100 (Bangor); 856-7227 (Westbrook); 872-7272 (Waterville)
Maine Resource/Helpline: 1-800-499-0027
ME Office of Substance Abuse: 287-8900

TEEN RESOURCES

National Runaway Hotline: 1-800-RUN-AWAY

Homeless Services:

Preble Street Teen Center, Portland: 874-1197, day
Lighthouse Shelter, Portland: 774-3073, eve
New Beginnings Shelter, Lewiston: 795-4077
Shaw House Shelter, Bangor: 941-2874
Breakwater Shelter, Rockland: 596-2920, eve
Halcyon House, Skowhegan: 474-8574
Youth Alternatives Homeless Services: 874-1175

Emancipation: 16+ year olds

Apply at local District Court where parent lives; free attorney is appointed for teen

Dating Violence:

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline. 1-866-331-9474

Juvenile Offenses/Court:

Juveniles have a right to a lawyer. Court will appoint one free if juvenile and parents cannot afford one. Free lawyer of the day will be at Court to advise juvenile.

Health:

MaineCare: DHHS, 1-800-321-5557

School-based health clinics: www.measbhc.org

Eating Disorders:

Mercy Hospital: 879-3880

University of New England: 283-1407, ext.3502

Alternative Education (See also Education Section)

N.E. Job Corps: Portland, 774-3193; Bangor, 800-949-1937; Limestone, 328-4212; National, 800-733-5627

Future Builders, Raymond: 655-1000

Youth Building Alternatives, Portland: 775-0105

REAL School, Windham/Mackworth Island: 892-4462

The Community School, Camden: 236-8404

The Carleton Project, Presque Isle: 768-9998

Project Reach (JMG), statewide: 582-0924

Legal Advocacy

KIDS LEGAL: 774-8246; 1-866-624-7787

YOUNG PARENTS

Teen Parent School Program, Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers: 873-4253

Mainly Parents: 1-800-249-5506

Healthy Families: 859-1580

Parents as Teachers: 1-800-870-7746

Teen & Young Adult Health Program: 1-800-698-3624

Teen & Young Parent Program of Knox County,

Rockland: 1-866-486-3549; 594-0975

Parent Resource Center, Springvale: 324-1371

Pregnancy & Single Mom Support, Lewiston: 777-3776

My Choice Pregnancy Support: 772-7555

National Pregnancy Helpline: 1-800-395-HELP

Shelters for Pregnant Teens:

MAPS (18+): Portland: 775-1508; Bangor: 990-3005

St. Andre's (group homes): 771-5683

Stepping Stones, Houlton: 1-800-532-6689