This project is a partnership among Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO), Mercy Children’s Hospital, ProMedica Toledo Children’s Hospital, and University Pediatrics at the University of Toledo Medical Center.

The Toledo MLPC provides services at Mercy Children’s Hospital, the Mercy Family Care Center, other Mercy Pediatric Care providers.

In addition, MLPC Toledo provides services through University Pediatrics, the pediatric primary care practice on the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Medical and mental health providers treating pediatric and obstetric patients at partnering facilities may refer patients to the MLPC for a full legal needs assessment.

The MLPC is now serving patients at ProMedica Toledo Children’s Hospital, the ProMedica Center for Health Services, and affiliated pediatric providers.

The MLPC provides consults and advice, referrals, and representation to pediatric patients and their families. The MLPC seeks to improve child health and wellbeing through targeted legal services.

The MLPC is a partnership among:

To make a referral to the MLPC:
Submit a referral form or call LAWO at (419) 724-0030 and ask for an MLPC attorney.

Visit the MLPC Web site:
http://mlpc.lawolaw.org
Free civil legal assistance

The primary purpose of a MLPC is the delivery of legal assistance and representation to low-income children and their families in a clinical setting.

Early legal intervention and ongoing advocacy for basic needs such as food, shelter, income, education, employment, access to medical care, and freedom from violence may help improve health and well-being of children and their families.

Medical-Legal Partnership for Children Mission

Training and Education

A crucial step in instituting a MLPC is developing a relationship between lawyers and physicians. Lawyers provide physicians, residents, medical students, nurses, and social workers with the knowledge necessary to screen patients for legal problems and to assess the social and environmental determinants of their patients’ health and welfare.

Attorneys also provide guidance, resources, tools, and strategies to intervene and advocate for patients.

Physicians and other health care providers familiarize attorneys with health care environments and educate them about the health care system, its issues, and patient needs. These professionals collaborate on behalf of individual children and their families.

Systemic Advocacy

The MLPC works to influence the systems, programs, and policies that impact the health and well being of children and their families with the goal of bringing about positive change in local, state, and national policies and regulations.

The MLPC is a collaboration among medical providers and lawyers designed to improve the health and well being of low-income children and their families by providing legal assistance in a health care setting.

Since families make regular visits to their pediatrician, medical providers are in an excellent position to screen for legal issues and intervene before they affect health.

Susie had been trying to obtain Social Security supplemental Security Income Benefits for her son, Brian, who has oppositional defiant disorder. Because Brian meets many of the criteria for an autism diagnosis, the staff at the clinic referred Susie to the MLPC attorney, who helped her gather both medical and school related evidence on Brian's severe impairments. At a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, Susie and Brian's case manager provided testimony on Brian's disability. As a result, Brian was awarded disability benefits and arrearages dating back to July 2006.