

Legal Needs Examples

This document provides a list of sample legal needs of human trafficking survivors. While this list is not comprehensive, it demonstrates the diversity of challenges these individuals must address through the complex legal system.

For example, a trafficking survivor may need to divorce her trafficker who is also her husband, obtain custody of her children and clean her criminal record for crimes she was forced to commit while trafficked. All at once. In the ALIGHT Legal Needs Matching Pilot, service providers and advocates who work with survivors of human trafficking can connect to lawyers with expertise in the relevant legal issues from a pool of qualified legal professionals - in real time. With direct and easy access to *pro bono* legal resources and knowledge through a mobile application, precious time is not wasted on coordination, and more of the survivors' diverse, pressing problems can be expediently resolved.

To learn more about the ALIGHT Legal Needs Matching Pilot visit alightnet.org/our-solution. If you have further questions or wish to participate, contact ALIGHT at pilot@alightnet.org.

Category of Law	Brief Description
Criminal Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear criminal record (EX. expunge juvenile criminal records, seal adult convictions for trafficking-related crimes) • Victim-inclusive advocacy in criminal justice system (EX. mandatory protection order against intimate partner/spouse/roommate/family member) • Warrant • Offense or charge (EX. truancy, contempt, drug possession, revoked driver's license, prostitution and related crimes) • Citation or court order (EX. contempt citation) • Access crime victim compensation
Family Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divorce • Securing access to child support • Child custody and visitation • Child abduction or concealment • Child abuse and neglect • Domestic violence • Court appointment of advocate to protect interests of a juvenile

Category of Law	Brief Description
Civil Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to public benefits (EX. Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, SNAP, TANF, state-level benefits) • Access to public or subsidized housing • Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlord/tenant issues (EX. evictions, rent disputes, substandard conditions) • Other housing-related issues such as moves to safe accommodations, lease negotiations or renegotiations and sale or purchase of real property • Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back wages • Unsafe working conditions • Sexual harassment • Discrimination based on gender, race, sexual orientation, religion or ethnicity • Unemployment benefits • Worker’s compensation issues • Tax <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax counsel on filing requirements • Tax treatment of damages or restitution (reimbursement) awards • Obtaining social security numbers and filing tax returns • Debtor/Creditor Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defense of debt collection lawsuit • Negotiation with debt collection agencies • Filing for bankruptcy • Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of legal name and/or social security number • Civil order of protection (EX. injunction, restraining order) • Civil Litigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil damages (monetary award due to the survivor) • Restitution (reimbursement for losses) • Collection of a successful judgment (a decision by a court awarding damages to a victim) • Non-criminal claims by victim(s) against traffickers and others