

THE ALIGHT LEGAL NEEDS MATCHING PROGRAM

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.

The ALIGHT Legal Needs Matching Program connects survivors to free legal services so that survivors do not have to fight for their rights alone.

Survivors often need assistance in different areas of law. For example, a trafficking survivor may need to obtain custody of her children (**Family Law**), deal with debt collectors (**Civil Law**) and expunge her criminal record for crimes she was forced to commit while trafficked (**Criminal Law**).

Further, survivors often need different types of assistance. From **Advocacy** (help negotiating with a third party) to **Counsel** (advice on rights) and **Representation** (serving as attorney of record in court proceedings).

Community service providers and advocates who work with survivors can connect to attorneys with expertise in the relevant legal issues from a pool of qualified legal professionals - in real time - through the ALIGHT Legal Needs Matching Program.

To learn more about the ALIGHT Legal Needs Matching Program, contact ALIGHT at program@alightnet.org or visit www.alightnet.org.

AREA OF LAW	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
CRIMINAL LAW	<p>CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advocacy on behalf of survivor seeking criminal investigation or prosecution of trafficker • survivor testimony or participation in case against trafficker • criminal justice system navigation <p>CRIMINAL DEFENSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • challenge to survivor’s credibility • charge against survivor (EX. perjury, false identification to police, prostitution, assault/battery, DUI) • restraining order • warrant <p>CRIMINAL RECORDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expunging juvenile criminal record • sealing adult criminal record
FAMILY LAW	<p>CUSTODY, VISITATION & SUPPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child custody, visitation and support • family allocation of parental responsibilities • guardianship • termination of parental rights <p>DIVORCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • divorce/spousal support • alimony order <p>SECURITY ISSUES INVOLVING FAMILY MEMBERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • civil protection order for family member or unborn child • child welfare <p>SPOUSAL RIGHTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • right to inherit property • spousal rights regarding health, car and liability insurance

AREA OF LAW	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
CIVIL LAW	<p>PERSONAL SECURITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • civil protection order for survivor • harassment <p>DEBTOR RIGHTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fair debt collection • wage garnishment • bankruptcy <p>BENEFITS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public benefits (EX. Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, SNAP, TANF, state-level benefits) • public or subsidized housing • SSDI appeals <p>TENANT’S RIGHTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landlord/tenant (EX. eviction, rent dispute, substandard conditions) • housing discrimination <p>EMPLOYMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • back wages • unsafe working conditions • sexual harassment • EEO complants • discrimination based on gender, race, sexual orientation, religion or ethnicity • unemployment benefits • worker’s compensation <p>CIVIL LITIGATION - PLAINTIFF</p> <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 claim by survivor against trafficker and others (EX. harassment, revenge porn, image exploitation, human trafficking)

AREA OF LAW	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
	<p>CIVIL LITIGATION - RESPONDENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • defense of defamation or libel claim against survivor • defense of harassment claim against survivor <p>PERSONAL RECORDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • birth certificate, adoption record • social security card <p>IDENTITY CHANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legal name <p>FRAUD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identity theft <p>PROBATE COURT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trust and estate • civil commitment <p>COPYRIGHT/INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • survivor's images and story protection • removal of negative images <p>CORPORATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • corporate and nonprofit formation • corporate and nonprofit reorganization • fiduciary duties <p>TAX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tax filings • correcting past filing