



Norma Carlos <ncarlos@ofy.org>

Fwd: New Resource in LA County for Parents

1 message

Jessica Wade <jwade@oflschools.org>
 To: Norma Carlos <ncarlos@ofy.org>

Wed, Feb 24, 2021 at 2:45 PM

Hey Mrs Norma! Please see below, I wanted to send this over to you :-)
 Blessings,

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lucero, Pari** <Lucerop@ladlinc.org>
 Date: Wed, Feb 24, 2021 at 1:10 PM
 Subject: New Resource in LA County for Parents
 To: Lucero, Pari <Lucerop@ladlinc.org>

Hello,

My name is Pari Lucero and I am a Parent Partner with Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers (LADL). Our five firms are court appointed to represent parents in dependency proceedings (Children's Court) throughout Los Angeles County. We are public defenders and free, we work at Edelman Children's Court & the Lancaster Childrens Court.

In a response to the overwhelming number of child detentions per year, 21k average in LA County, we have implemented a new "Parent's Hopeline" as a free resource, offering emotional and "lived experience" support from parents who have successfully navigated through this system themselves, coupled with legal information, answers about process, legal rights during investigation and timelines provided by our staff attorneys. These calls are 100% confidential and free.

We at LADL have two objectives:

1. Our mission is to educate parents of their rights and responsibilities during the procedural chain of events of an investigation, in the hopes of preventing an actual petition ever being filed to separate this child and parent.

Unfortunately victims of violence are not always just the children but actually the parents themselves. A parent who is victim of domestic violence, often becomes a defendant due to how the statutes are written. For example if LAPD responds to a DV call, and there are children residing at that address, even if they are not awake or not present at the time, it is LAPD's Policy to report their interaction to Department of Children and Family Services. When the DCFS Emergency Response Investigator arrives, sometimes the next day or several days later depending on the severity of the call, they often treat the investigation habitually rather than really finding out the facts about what took place. Often not only is the parent suffering the trauma from the event of violence but now she/he becomes a suspect in what is called "Failure to Protect" and the children are most often removed from the parent. This is a complete breakdown in a very overcrowded system. We are trying to reduce these detentions for DV victims.

2. We are also here to offer our pre-petition support to parents who need to understand that sometimes, as parents we make really poor choices, now is the time to turn those choices into positive ones, putting our children first, becoming accountable for any actions and the part we played in this difficult scenario taking place. There is a very small window in which a parent might experience that ah ha moment and be reachable. There is nobody more uniquely qualified to reach that parent than another parent who has had similar experience.

This is about helping the parents, in order to help the children. The number of cases opened in LA County every year continues to grow and the foster care system is bursting at the seams. Many children have been experiencing trauma for years behind DV or neglect due to a parent's substance abuse, adding to their trauma by throwing them into homes they may never get out of is not always the answer. We are looking to provide support to parents, on behalf of the child. Parents don't have legal representation until after a petition is filed with the court to open a case, and sometimes that is too late. Our hope is to decrease the unnecessary removals by way of support and education, so the county's time and dollars can be spent on helping children who really need it, such as Gabriel Fernandez.

We would appreciate any consideration you might be able to provide us with going forward to launch this new resource. If your facility is one of mandated reporting, please consider sharing this flyer with the parent during that process, we will definitely assist in any way we can.

LADL is currently putting together a tutorial to better answer questions you might have. In the meantime you can visit our website at www.ladlinc.org or request a Zoom or Webex meeting to better acquaint our staff with your staff and discuss what services your facility has to offer our clients, as well as how we might help yours.

It takes a village to raise a child, parenting does not come with a manual, some of us need additional support along the way.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Respectfully and in service,

Pari Lucero

Hopeline Admin / PPII

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“It can be difficult to speak truth to power. Circumstances, however, have made doing so increasingly necessary.”

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2 attachments

 Parent Hope-Line Flyer.pdf
1545K

 Parent Hope-Line Flyer-SPANISH.pdf
259K