



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 25-03 (REV)

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Children's Law Center (CLC) Peer Advocates

The CLC Peer Advocates Program is a resource for youth advocacy, sponsored by the Children's Law Center. The Peer Advocate Program is designed to work with the assigned youth to provide assistance in case management and guidance to the youth. The goal of the Peer Advocates is to become a member of the youth's treatment team in order to help them successfully transition out of the foster care system.

The Peer Advocates are CLC employees who are assigned to a youth when referred by their CLC attorney. They primarily, but not exclusively, work with older clients (16 and up.) They are able to attend court hearings, community meetings, Child Family Team (CFT) meetings, assist with navigating government systems, as well as assist in accessing post-secondary educational opportunities, housing, benefits, services and more for their clients. They can help the youth understand the court process, their case plans and treatment goals, as well as the youths' obligations and responsibilities as emerging adults. Accordingly, like CLC attorneys, they have the ability to communicate with DCFS social workers, FFA staff, the client's treatment team, their caregivers and unrepresented family members.

The Dependency Court has adopted a [Standing Order](#), with the Court confirming that CLC Peer Advocates are agents of CLC attorneys and are entitled to access CLC clients and their case information.

Once assigned to a youth, a CLC Peer Advocate will contact the youth's CSW, identifying themselves with their full name, title, and CLC firm. They will know the client's full name and court case number, but not the DCFS Case number. All Los Angeles based CLC-employees have an email address that ends with @clcla.org or @clccal.org. All Peer Advocates are assigned to CLCLA4 and work on cases assigned to any of the CLC firms (LA1-5). If a CSW has concerns regarding the Peer Advocates' identity, they may call CLC's main number at (323) 859-4000 to confirm.

If you have any questions regarding this release, please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov

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