



CHARLESTON  
LEGAL ACCESS

## MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

**Charleston Legal Access has partnered with Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services and MUSC to bring a Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) to patients experiencing negative health outcomes due to a legal issue. Our goal is to improve community health and increase access to justice.**

MLPs are a cross-disciplinary approach to integrated healthcare, proven to improve child and family health and economic outcomes.

Using this approach, doctors and attorneys work together to address and prevent health-harming civil legal barriers to one's quality of life and health outcomes.

The timely intervention of a civil legal aid attorney helps healthcare providers respond more effectively to the needs which negatively impact health. These attorneys can:

- improve low-income patient access to justice,
- reduce costs for "safety net" hospitals,
- improve patient satisfaction, and
- reduce community health disparities.

## MLP IMPACT



MLP patients report lower levels of stress.



MLP patients are more likely to take their medications as instructed.



MLP patients with chronic illnesses have fewer hospital admissions.



Clinical services are more frequently reimbursed by public & private payers, resulting in health care system savings.

Source: <https://medical-legalpartnership.org/impact/>

Please contact Lana Kleiman at [lane@charlestonlegalaccess.org](mailto:lane@charlestonlegalaccess.org) for more information.

# HOW DOES A MLP WORK?

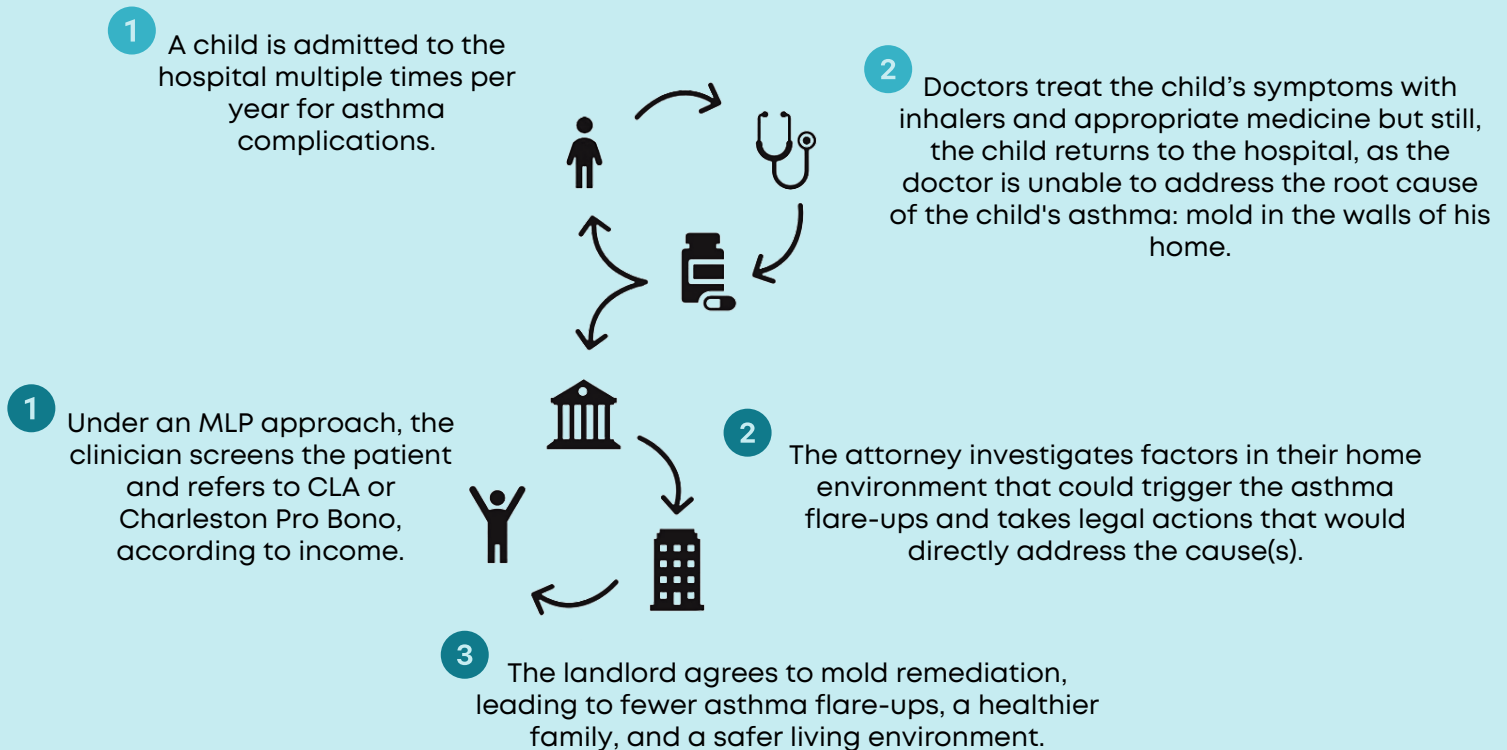
Clinicians conduct an MLP screening as part of their practice, identifying civil legal problems that contribute to negative health outcomes, like an illegal eviction or the financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. These patients are referred directly to the MLP for consultation and intervention.

MLP attorneys are available to consult with clinical and non-clinical staff about system and policy barriers to care. MLPs offer three main services:

- representing individuals or families to address conditions that harm or impact health;
- training clinicians to screen for potential legal barriers to good health; and
- advocating for structural policy change.



## MLP INTERVENTION FOR ASTHMA EXAMPLE



Source: <https://www.instituteforchildsuccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Medical-Legal-Partnerships-web.pdf>

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