

## Children's Legal Centre – Overview



The Children's Legal Centre is a unique, independent national charity concerned with law and policy affecting children and young people. The Children's Legal Centre has many years of experience in providing legal advice and representation to children, their carers and professionals throughout the UK. It opened in 1981, as the major UK project for the International Year of the Child, and is staffed by lawyers and professionals with experience in child law. The Centre is funded by grants from Central Government and by charitable trusts.

The Children's Legal Centre provides the following services:

- Education Law – The Children's Legal Centre is the UK's leading provider of education law advice and casework. Our qualified solicitors, trainee solicitors and paralegals offer advice and representation to children and young people, parents and carers who have concerns relating to their own or their child's education.
- Child Law – The Children's Legal Centre operates a revolutionary Child and Family Law Department which has expanded rapidly over the last ten years. We have an outstanding reputation as a child centred practice and are renowned for our high standard of work and professionalism. We provide representation to children throughout England and operate a telephone and e-mail advice service throughout the world and have very ambitious plans for the future.
- Family Law – Following a competitive tender the Children's Legal Centre has been awarded a contract to provide family advice services over the telephone via Community Legal Advice (CLA). The service opened on the 1st October 2007 and is to run as a 12 month pilot to establish the type of family problems that can be addressed over the phone as well as monitoring the demand for the service.
- Refugee and Asylum Seeking Project – The Refugee and Asylum Seeking Department at the Children's Legal Centre aims to help non-immigration specialist professionals working with asylum seeking and refugee children find out about this group of children's rights and entitlements.
- Publications, consultancy and training – The Children's Legal Centre produces a number of publications for professionals, parents and young people. The Children's Legal Centre also undertakes consultation and training services for professionals in the field of child law. More information about these publications and services may be found on the Children's Legal Centre web site.
- Research – The Children's Legal Centre undertakes research and consultancy in the areas of children's rights, child law and policy. We aim to conduct groundbreaking socio-legal research projects on issues relating to children and young people in the UK and abroad. Research reports contribute to the growing body of knowledge on children, children's rights and child law and policy and are used to influence the legal and policy frameworks in these areas.
- International Programmes – The International Section works around the world to promote the implementation of children's rights. 193 States have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The International Section of the Children's Legal Centre provides technical assistance to Governments to fulfil their obligations under this treaty to implement children's rights. The International Section also hosts the Children and Armed Conflict Unit -a joint project with the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex.