

## **Case Acceptance and Client Eligibility Guidelines**

The AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania (ALPP) provides legal services to residents of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey who either are living with HIV or acutely vulnerable to acquiring HIV such as LGBT seniors, LGBT youth, Transgender individuals and individuals with substance use disorder. We do not “means test” potential clients.

ALPP works collaboratively with public health clinics and Ryan White funded case management agencies to provide legal services to their patients and clients. Many of our clients are referred to us by their medical providers or case managers. These collaborative relationships are important in achieving the best possible outcome for our clients.

When we identify a client who needs medical and/or social services, we refer them to the Division of HIV Health Information Hotline. On the occasions that our clients have non-legal questions around the issues of HIV testing and transmission, we refer them to the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The following issues are excluded from the legal services offered by ALPP:

**TRANSMISSION** - ALPP as a policy matter does not pursue claims against individuals for transmission of HIV. It is our belief that each person must assume personal responsibility to prevent HIV infection and that civil liability is not an appropriate response to an epidemic.

**CRIMINAL DEFENSE** - Because access to public defenders is available in our service area, we have decided to direct our resources to legal issues where the need is unmet. Exceptions to this exclusion are HIV criminalization cases and the resolution of bench warrants or court fines that affect public benefits eligibility.

**MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES**- Due to limited resources, we have decided not to pursue these matters.

**SSA ALJ APPEALS** – If ALPP did not represent the claimant at the ALJ hearing, we will not represent them in an appeal from an ALJ Unfavorable Decision to the Appeals Council. The only exception is when there is a question of law and not facts. ALPP does not provide representation at the federal court level.

**AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (ASOs)** – Unless the matter involves a tenant’s possessory interest in housing where an ASO is the landlord, ALPP will not represent an individual in a legal action adverse to an ASO.

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