

Special Immigrant
Juvenile Status (SIJS)

**Protecting Abused,
Neglected or Abandoned
Undocumented Children**

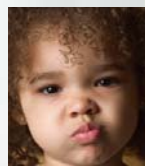
Center for
Children's Advocacy
**Pro Bono Training for
Connecticut Attorneys**

“The sessions were,
without a doubt and
without exaggeration,
the most useful trainings
I've attended as a lawyer.

You covered a huge
amount of information
and did a great job
balancing statutes and
procedure with equally
valuable war stories.

I found it hugely helpful
to hear the experiences
and observations of
other attendees.

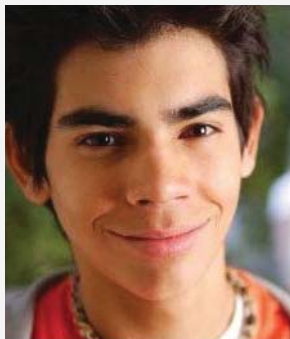
I am much better equipped
to move forward.”



Center for **Children's** Advocacy
kidscounsel.org

Pro Bono Training for Connecticut Attorneys

Abused, Neglected or Abandoned Undocumented Children and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)



and jumped onto moving trains to find refuge and safety in the United States.

Joe was abandoned at birth by his parents, neglected and abused by his caregivers, and threatened with certain death by a gang in his birth country, Honduras. With no one to care for him and not a soul to turn to, Joe made the brave decision to travel north - with the equivalent of two dollars in his pocket. He walked for weeks



Connecticut this past spring. She enrolled in school and is getting medical and mental health care. Linnie's mom brought her to the US to keep her from repeating the violence and terror of her own life, but Linnie is undocumented and will not be able to stay without legal help.

Linnie is a child born of violent gang rape. Her mother carefully protected her for many years and left Linnie in Guatemala in the care of her grandparents when she came to the US to find work. Within weeks, there were reports that Linnie was being physically abused by her grandparents. With her mother's help, Linnie arrived in

What is SIJ Status?

Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status was created by Congress in 1990 for non-U.S. citizen children who do not have permanent residence and have been abused, neglected or abandoned by one or both parents. A juvenile or probate court must make the child dependent on the court or place the child under legal custody of a state agency or other appointed individual; declare that the child cannot be reunited with one or both parents due to abuse, abandonment or neglect; and declare that it is not in the best interests of the child to be returned to his/her country of citizenship.

SIJ status allows a child to apply for lawful permanent residence while remaining in the U.S.

Growing Need

Legal representation is critical to prevent undocumented children from being returned to a threatening, frightening existence.

In response to the growing need for representation in our courts, the Center for Children's Advocacy is training Connecticut attorneys to provide effective pro-bono representation in juvenile and probate court.

The Center's recent New Haven sessions provided training for 42 attorneys to represent undocumented children who need legal help.

Pro-Bono Opportunity

SIJS protects undocumented children who have been abandoned, abused or neglected by allowing them to regularize their immigration status.

Children eligible for SIJS protection do not face the tragedy of being returned to the terrible child abuse or neglect that caused them to flee their country.

Lawyers who register for the Center's program receive 18 hours of free legal training and technical assistance in exchange for providing legal representation to one child or youth. Clients will be referred to the pro-bono attorney by the Center for Children's Advocacy and the International Institute of Connecticut (IICONN).

Upcoming Sessions

Please contact Center for Children's Advocacy attorney Edwin Colon for information:
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