

## Resources:

Ohio Department of Education,  
Office of the Coordinator for  
Homeless Children and Youth  
614.466.4161

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing  
614.280.1984

National Association for the Education of  
Homeless Children and Youth  
866.862.2562

Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
800.934.9840

National Runaway Switchboard  
800.786.2929

The Salvation Army, Northeast Ohio Division  
216.861.8185

Ohio United Way  
614.224.8146; or dial 2-1-1 for  
referral to community resources



The  
**Legal Aid Society**  
— of Cleveland  
*Since 1905*

*This brochure was prepared by Legal Aid which serves  
low-income residents of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga,  
Lake and Lorain Counties in Northeast Ohio.*

New Client Intake  
Toll Free: 888.817.3777  
Phone: 216.687.1900

Learn more about Legal Aid and  
upcoming brief advice clinics:

**[www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org)**

### Legal Aid Offices:

Cleveland & Administrative Offices  
1223 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, OH 44113

Elyria Office  
1530 West River Road, Suite 301, Elyria, OH 44035

Jefferson Office  
121 East Walnut Street, Jefferson, OH 44047

Painesville Office  
8 North State Street, Suite 300, Painesville, OH 44077

*If you have a communications limitation, contact Legal Aid through  
the Ohio Relay Service at 800.750.0750.*

*Legal Aid offers interpretation and translation services so those with  
limited English proficiency can communicate with Legal Aid staff in  
their dominant and/or preferred language.*

*The information in this brochure cannot take the place  
of advice from a lawyer. Each case is different and needs  
individual legal advice. You should contact a lawyer if  
you need representation or if you have questions.*



# Access to Education for Homeless Students and Students Living in Temporary Housing



The  
**Legal Aid Society**  
— of Cleveland  
*Since 1905*

**[www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org)**

## What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act?

A federal law that requires school districts to provide an education to homeless students.

## Who Qualifies as Homeless?

The law defines homelessness very broadly. Some examples are:

- Those living in homeless shelters;
- Those living with family or friends due to hardship;
- Those living in substandard housing;
- Those living in cars, motels, abandoned buildings, etc.;
- Those children awaiting foster care placement; and
- Homeless teens who do not live with parents and who do not have adult guardians.

## What Rights Do Homeless Children Have?

The rights include:

- The right to continue attending the school they were attending when they became homeless;
- The right to transfer to a school closer to where they are residing, if feasible;
- The right to receive transportation to school they were attending even if they now live far from the school;
- The right to enroll in school even if lacking necessary documents
  - Birth certificates
  - School records
  - Immunization records;
- The right to receive special education services if needed; and
- The right to continue attending school while the question of your child's homeless status is resolved. If the school does not agree that your child can attend while the issue is being resolved, seek legal help.

## How Can Parents Help?

- Decide which school you would like your child to attend.
- Each school district and charter school in Ohio must have someone (a liaison) to assist homeless students and families. Contact your child's school to find out who this person is and how he or she can assist you.
- If you cannot determine who this person is at your child's school, call the Ohio Department of Education's Office of the Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths at 614.466.4161.
- Seek legal help if your child's school is not fulfilling its obligations to your child under the McKinney-Vento Act.