

Legal Services Assistance

Sponsor Circles are not expected to support newcomers in navigating the legalities of the complex U.S. immigration system. However, they are expected to connect newcomers to legal aid as soon as possible following their arrival in the destination community. It is important that the process gets underway as soon as possible, as U.S. immigration procedures can be lengthy.

The Sponsor Circle supports the newcomer as they work with an attorney and go through the legal process. This may include accompanying them to court appointments, check-ins, and assisting them in gathering information and documents requested by the attorney.

Sponsor Circle volunteers should feel empowered to help the newcomer find legal assistance, even if you personally have never hired an attorney. Whether you are helping the newcomer choose a lawyer that is already an immigration attorney or an attorney that is willing to be trained as a pro bono to learn an immigration case process, the selection ultimately comes down to finding an individual the newcomer trusts and feels a connection within terms of personal, as well as professional, values. The attorney-client relationship is exactly that, a relationship, and one which the newcomer needs to feel very comfortable with themselves.

Below you can find a list of possible sources of support, but it is highly recommended Sponsor Circles utilize their networks, asking local contacts to spread the word. Please note that attorneys don't necessarily need to be immigration attorneys, as there are organizations that can provide them with training.

NOTE: Providing advice about legal matters and completing forms is considered practicing law. Volunteers who are not licensed attorneys should be careful to not commit the unlicensed practice of law.

Free or Low-Cost Immigration Legal Services

[AILA: American Immigration Lawyers Association](#)

[CLINIC: Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.](#)

[EOIR Free Legal Services Provider List](#)

[Human Rights First](#)

[Immigrant Defense Project](#)

[Immigration Law Help](#)

[KIND: Kids in Need of Defense](#)

[National Immigration Law Center](#)