

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:
LEGAL SERVICES AND PERMANENCY PLANNING**

(Year ~~32-33~~ Service Priority: ~~#13~~ for 15 for Part A)

Other Professional Services (Legal Services and Permanency Planning) are support services. Other Professional Services allow for the provision of professional and consultant services rendered by members of particular professions licensed and/or qualified to offer such services by local governing authorities. Locally, this service category is limited to the provision of Legal Services and Permanency Planning to people with HIV or AIDS who would not otherwise have access to these services, with the goal of maintaining clients in health care. Legal Services are available to eligible individuals with respect to powers of attorney, do-not-resuscitate orders, and interventions necessary to ensure access to eligible benefits, including discrimination or breach of confidentiality litigation as it relates to services eligible for funding under the Ryan White Program, especially but not limited to assistance with access to benefits and health care-related services.

- A. Program Operation Requirements:** Funds may be used to support and complement pro bono activities.

Funds may also be used to support program-allowable services (e.g., legal assistance, filing fees, and fingerprinting fees, etc. to support legal name and identity changes) for gender affirming care. This support for gender affirming care aims to facilitate access to benefit programs and services for which a client may be eligible. This gender affirming care support may be included in one or more of the service areas listed below.

All legal assistance under Ryan White Part A Program funding will be provided under the supervision of an attorney licensed by the Florida Bar Association. Only civil cases are covered under this Agreement. Therefore, the service provider will assist eligible Ryan White Program clients with civil legal HIV-related issues which will benefit the overall health of the client and/or the Ryan White Program care delivery system in the following service areas:

- Collections/Finance – issues related to unfair or illegal actions by collection agencies related to health care debt (e.g., bankruptcy due to health care debt).
- Employment Discrimination Services – issues related to discrimination while at work, unfair terminations, unfair promotion policies, or hostile work environment as related to HIV diagnosis or status.

- Health Care Related Services – issues related to ensuring that the client is treated in a fair manner, and issues relating to breach of confidentiality by divulging HIV status or other confidential medical/income information without client consent.
- Health Insurance Services – issues related to seeking, maintaining, and purchasing of private health insurance.
- Government Benefit Services – issues related to obtaining or retaining public benefits which the client has been denied and is eligible to receive, including but not limited to Social Security Disability and Supplemental Income Services (SSDI and SSI) benefits, Unemployment Compensation, as well as welfare appeals, and similar public/government services.
- Rights of the Recently Incarcerated Services – issues related to a client’s right to access and receive medical treatment upon release from a correctional institution.
- Adoption/Guardianship Services – issues relating to preparation for custody options for legal dependents including standby guardianship, joint custody, or adoption.
- Permanency Planning – this component helps clients/families make decisions about the placement and care of minor children after their parents/caregivers are deceased or are no longer able to care for them, including: the provision of social service counseling or legal counsel regarding the drafting of wills or delegating powers of attorney. This sub-component includes preparation of advance directives, healthcare power of attorney, durable powers of attorney, and living wills.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Adoption/Guardianship is related to Permanency Planning under HRSA Policy Clarification Notice #16-02; however, for local tracking purposes, it has been identified as a separate billable component.
- Adoption/Guardianship and Permanency Planning activities do not include any legal services that arrange for guardianship or adoption of children after the death of their normal caregiver. Proper planning must occur prior to the death of the client (i.e., parent/guardian).
- HRSA’s Program Letter titled “Gender-Affirming Care in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program,” dated December 16, 2021 (<https://ryanwhite.hrsa.gov/grants/program-letters>), addresses the importance of and allowable uses of funds to support gender-affirming care.

- Providers should demonstrate experience in providing similar services and the ability to meet the multi-lingual needs of the HIV/AIDS community.
- B. Rules for Reimbursement:** The unit of reimbursement for this service is *one hour (or fraction thereof)* of legal consultation and/or advocacy provided by an attorney or paralegal at a rate not to exceed \$90.00 per hour. Gender affirming care support does not have a separate billing code, as it is a component in one or more of the service areas listed in Section A, directly above.
- C. Additional Rules for Reporting:** Monthly activity reporting for this service will be on the basis of *one hour of legal consultation and/or advocacy* provided by an attorney or paralegal. Legal Services and Permanency Planning providers must submit an annual written assurance that: 1) Ryan White Program funds are being used only for Legal Services and Permanency Planning directly necessitated by an individual's HIV status; 2) Ryan White Program funds are not used for any criminal defense or for class action suits unrelated to access to services eligible for Ryan White Program funding; and 3) the Ryan White Program was used as the payer of last resort.
- D. Special Client Eligibility Criteria:** A Ryan White Program In Network Service Referral or an Out of Network Referral/Non-Certified Referral (accompanied by all appropriate supporting documentation) is required for this service and must be updated annually. Providers must also document that program-eligible people with HIV (clients) receiving Ryan White Part A Program-funded Other Professional Services (Legal Services and Permanency Planning) are permanent residents of Miami-Dade County and have gross household incomes that do not exceed 400% of the 202~~2~~3 Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- E. Additional Rules for Documentation:** Client charts must include a description of how the Legal Service or Permanency Planning services are necessitated by the individual's HIV status, the provision of services, client eligibility (Ryan White Program In Network Referral or Out of Network Referral with supporting documentation), and the hours spent in the provision of such services.