



Today is the last day to make a tax deductible donation! Our fundraising goal is \$30,000 and we are almost there! Will you help us by [donating](#)?

While holiday cheer is still in the air and millions are spending time with family, some of our clients are fighting to reconnect with their children. Amara helps clients regain custody of their children, who may be in the custody of their traffickers, family members, or the state. Further, some sex workers are targeted and discriminated against by child services due to their involvement in sex work and have their children unfairly taken away.

For many, reconnecting with family is essential to the healing process. We also want to make sure that children are safe and abusers can no longer influence the lives of our clients by using their children as pawns. Spending time with family during the holidays is something many take for granted. Our clients don't. For many of our clients, holidays are the only time to see their children.

December 3 through 31st, we have hosted our 5th Annual No Show Ball, a virtual holiday party that lets guests give from home and support Amara Legal's mission to provide free legal services to individuals whose rights have been violated while involved in commercial sex, whether involvement was by coercion, necessity, choice, or otherwise, in the D.C. metropolitan area. One of these legal services is our family law practice where we represent our clients as they seek custody, often after years of being separated from their children.

Join us in connecting families and making sure victims have a fair chance with a gift of any amount. To learn more about our services and what your gift to the No Show Ball helps us do visit www.amaralegal.org.



Staff Spotlight: Dena Shayne



Why is it important and why do we provide the service?

Family law is an extremely important body of law that we practice - it can include custody, divorce, and child support. Amara's goal is to empower our clients to lead self-determined lives; part of that self-determination is raising their family in a way they best see fit.

Historically, communities of color, particularly women and non-binary individuals of color, through systemic oppression, have been unable to control their own bodies, and families. This includes forced sterilization, the bias in reporting people of color to child services, and the fact that black women are more likely to die in childbirth than their white counterparts.

The issues that our clients face daily are compounded if they are raising a family. Perhaps it is because they are married to their trafficker and want to leave them (which is the most dangerous time for a person), or perhaps they are a sex worker by choice, and child protective services decides that makes them unfit to be a parent - regardless of the reason, our clients are targeted by the law, and must navigate difficult, confusing, and life altering civil actions.

Amara fights to ensure that our clients are well-represented in these civil cases and that their needs are being met throughout the entire process, from safety planning to the legal case

itself. Providing family law services ensure that our clients have access to the basic human right of establishing their own family unit, regardless of wealth, race, or circumstance.

Emergency Client Needs

In addition to legal services, many of our clients have short-term, emergency needs. Since they are not legal services, these important client needs -- including baby formula, groceries, child care, and transportation costs -- are not typically covered by our grant funding. We rely heavily on sources of unrestricted funding, such as donations and general operating support, to ensure our clients' emergency needs are met.

Give Today



Amara Legal Center
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