



A Division of the New York Legal Assistance Group

# LegalHealth

Professional Partnership to Promote Well Being<sup>®</sup>

Since 2001, LegalHealth has partnered with medical professionals to address the nonmedical needs of low-income people with serious health problems. LegalHealth complements health care with legal care — providing free legal services in medical facilities and training healthcare professionals to understand the legal issues their patients face. LegalHealth extends its mission nationally by providing technical assistance to bring medical and legal partners together.

## JAMES J. PETERS VA MEDICAL CENTER

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### Clinic Location

Outpatient Psychiatry  
3B (PTSD Clinic Waiting Area)  
130 West Kingsbridge Road  
Bronx, NY 10468

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### Clinic Schedule

Wednesdays  
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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### Appointments

Nickie Rodriguez, 4A-09  
(718) 584-9000 x 2658

Marglin Morales, 4A-09  
(718) 584-9000 x 2635

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## LegalHealth Services at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center

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Every week attorneys bring the law office into the hospital, providing advice and representation to help patients:

- Secure government benefits
- Fix housing problems
- Address credit issues
- Handle immigration issues
- Plan ahead (e.g. wills, health care proxy, power of attorney and guardianship)
- Solve insurance disputes
- Negotiate workplace accommodations
- Apply for discharge upgrades
- Assist with child support modifications

## Patient Stories

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### *Harry*

Harry, a 30-year old Marine veteran was seeing a psychiatrist at the VA for PTSD symptoms arising from combat in Operation Enduring Freedom. His psychiatrist referred him to the LegalHealth clinic after he had been denied unemployment benefits. His employer of 9-years said he had been fired for misconduct. LegalHealth represented Harry on appeal and argued that the alleged misconduct was an isolated incident of poor judgment arising from PTSD symptoms — flashbacks and loss of concentration. The appeal was successful and Harry will now receive \$377 weekly retroactive three months. During the intake, the LegalHealth attorney learned that Harry had received a general discharge but should have qualified for an honorable discharge. His LegalHealth attorney submitted evidence supporting the upgrade, which Harry received and can now include on his resume as he begins his search for new employment.

### *John*

John is a 65 year old veteran of the Army who served during the Vietnam War. He goes to the VA for medical care for his high blood pressure and diabetes. John also receives VA benefits. After his granddaughter's father passed away and mother's rights were terminated 10 years ago, John has been the guardian for and raised his 15 year old granddaughter. John was referred to the LegalHealth clinic because he wants to adopt his granddaughter and do advance planning for himself. His LegalHealth attorney is preparing the adoption paperwork which he will file in Family Court for approval. Once the adoption is final, John will receive increased VA benefits for his adopted child. LegalHealth is also drafting a will that will specify his sister as the successor guardian should John pass away, and will complete other advance planning documents including a power of attorney.

## Contact LegalHealth

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For more information contact:

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