



# April Family Law Case List

VIP offers the unique opportunity to affect the lives of low income Philadelphians in four priority areas:

- HELPING STABILIZE FAMILIES
- PRESERVING INCOME
- PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS
- COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Interested in a case? Contact Todd Nothstein at 215-523-9554 or [tnothstein@phillyvip.org](mailto:tnothstein@phillyvip.org)

VIP' Complete Case List Is Always Available at <https://www.phillyvip.org/case-listings/>

## HELPING STABILIZE FAMILIES

### **Custody - 19-0042994 (NC)**

Client with cerebral palsy seeks primary custody for her 2-year-old, autistic son Client has primary custody, but she wants supervised custody for the opposing party (OP). OP does not pick up child as ordered and leaves child in the care of strangers. OP does not acknowledge that child has autism, and therefore, fails to care for child's specific needs. An interim order directed an inspection of OP's home, but client says the inspection never occurred. Client also wants to ensure that OP's pets get proper shots. Client stopped allowing OP to see child because she is concerned for the child's safety. A custody contempt hearing is scheduled before Judge Elizabeth Jackson, Wednesday, May 22 at 1:30 pm, and a custody modification hearing is listed before Judge Michael Fanning, Tuesday, June 4 at 9:00am. A volunteer is needed to represent client at these two court events. Client understands that representation may be limited to these court dates, and she is willing to sign a pro se entry of appearance after the June 4 hearing.

**Core Competencies: Client Interviewing, Courtroom Experience**

### **Custody – 18-0042553 (TN)**

Client seeks primary physical custody of her ten-year-old daughter. The existing custody order provides OP (opposing party) primary custody at his residence in Sicklerville, NJ and requires client, who has no car, to travel from Philadelphia to pick up and drop off her daughter. The current order notes that educational opportunity is greater in Sicklerville than in Philadelphia, or in the school in Minneapolis where client proposed to relocate. However, client's daughter was frequently truant while in father's custody because OP does not take her to school regularly. OP, who is represented, also has a history of abusive behavior towards client and daughter. Client has had difficulty complying with the present order, and a contempt hearing is scheduled for June 24, 2019, at 9:00 am before Judge Michael Fanning. A volunteer is needed to file a petition to modify custody and defend client in the upcoming contempt hearing. The client understands that representation may be limited to the contempt hearing and modification of the current order and has agreed to sign a pro se entry of appearance when the representation is concluded.

**Core Competencies: Client Interviewing, Courtroom Experience**

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### **Divorce – 19-0043067 (SG)**

#### **Divorce Only**

Client seeks assistance with a divorce. Client/wife and opposing party (OP)/husband were married in November 2012 and separated in May 2015. Client is currently unemployed due to a disability. In 2016, client filed a divorce complaint raising issues of equitable distribution, alimony, and spousal support, but she never pursued the divorce after the complaint was served. Client is no longer interested in raising any economic claims. A volunteer attorney is needed to withdraw claims for equitable distribution, alimony, and spousal support and assist client in obtaining a divorce. The parties share two children and are handling custody matters separately. Client believes OP will consent to the divorce.

**Core Competencies: Client Interviewing, Draft Pleadings**

### **Divorce--190043039 (TN)**

#### **Divorce Only**

Client/husband was Married to the opposing party(OP)/wife December 5, 2013 and the couple separated one month later in January, 2014. Client and OP have no children in common and client is not interested in any assets that the OP may have. The couple own no property together and client has no assets. Client simply wants to be divorced so that he can move on with his life.

**Core Competencies: Draft Pleadings, Client**

### **Divorce-- 19-0043085 (NW)**

#### **Divorce Only**

Client seeks assistance with a no-asset divorce. Client/ wife and Opposing Party (OP)/ husband married in 2012 and separated in 2016; they have been living apart ever since. Client recently reached out to husband/OP, and OP indicated that he will consent to a divorce. Neither party seeks spousal support or makes any economic claims. A volunteer is needed to initiate a divorce and assist client throughout the process.

**Core Competencies: Draft Pleadings, Client Interviewing**