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LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Dear Executive Directors,

The Office of Legal Affairs issued Advisory Opinion AO-2016-002 on July 11, 2016, addressing the permissibility of providing legal services to noncitizen parents and noncitizen legal guardians petitioning for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) on behalf of noncitizen children. The opinion explains that recipients may represent noncitizen parents and, in some instances, noncitizen guardians of children seeking SIJS as a result of battery, extreme cruelty, sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking or other U-visa listed activities, so long as the legal assistance is directly related to obtaining relief from the abuse for the child. We have now issued a revised Advisory Opinion AO-2016-002. The principal revision is to clarify that, in this opinion, we use the term “guardian” to refer to individuals who have custody of and responsibility for the child in question, regardless of whether that individual is the child’s court-appointed guardian or custodian.

[Advisory Opinion 2016-002 \(Revised\) | LSC](#)

Permissibility of Providing Legal Services to Noncitizen Parents and Noncitizen Guardians of Children Seeking Immigrant Juvenile Status

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Thanks.

Ron

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