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To: <u>Linford, Tera</u>

Subject: FW: LEGAL TECHNICIAN SUPPORT LETTER

Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 9:30:22 AM

Attachments: 2021 0422 S. Velazquez LLLT License Support Ltr to Court.pdf

From: Priscilla Selden [mailto:cvlts.pllc@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 9:16 AM

To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>; Limited License Legal Technician

<LLLT@wsba.org>

Subject: LEGAL TECHNICIAN SUPPORT LETTER

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Attached please find a support letter from a member of the public, a client, regarding the Legal Technician license.

I have been serving indigent clients under a part-time contract with Northwest Justice Project in their "Omachee" field office (central Washington: Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan counties) since mid-2020. NJP staff have told me that but for one attorney and myself, these clients would not be able to be served by NJP; the staffing does not exist. Intake for family law cases had been closed for upwards of a year here.

Family law legal services are critical. The individuals referred to me in this contract have all been screened and meet criteria for domestic violence, with children in the home.

Sunsetting of the Legal Technician license, especially at a time when families are under increased emotional, psychological, and financial stress due to the pandemic and its attendant impacts, is simply incomprehensible and manifestly unjust.

Thank you.

Priscilla Selden, WSBA LLLT No. 102 Columbia Valley Legal Technician Services, PLLC (509) 560-4787

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Clerk, Washington Supreme Court PO Box 40929 Olympia, WA 98504-0929

VIA E-MAIL

supreme@courts.wa.gov

April 22, 2021

My name is Sarai Velazquez. I contacted Northwest Justice Project (NJP) in 2020 for a Parenting Plan for my for 4 year-old daughter. This is in Adams County. Adams County has very few legal services, including no Courthouse Facilitator. I am a young mother, working my way up through my career as a nurse's aid and raising my young child by myself. I wanted a Parenting Plan because my daughter's father had never been in her life. I wanted to protect my daughter's best interest, and there had been domestic violence between her dad and me.

NJP connected me with Legal Technician Priscilla Selden, who works with them under contract. Priscilla did the background research on the DV charges, and advised me of the pros and cons of filing the Parenting Plan. She let me know that the Petition requires to also ask for child support. Priscilla stayed in touch with me – always emailing or calling me back when I had questions. We got everything filed and served. Priscilla explained the process to me, each step. She took the time to follow-up with the Prosecutor about the Child Support Order. Together we wrote the papers, and I got my default orders successfully entered by the Judge this month!

Having Priscilla available to help me made all the difference in getting my Parenting Plan! I felt we were a team, and I was able to do some of the work, since this was all long distance, due to COVID. I also appreciated that she taught me about the process as we went along.

I really hope that the Legal Technician license continues. It's sad to think that this option might not be available for others like me in the future. I hope my story will be considered in making your decision about continuing the License.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Sarai Hernandez Velazquez

Sarai Velazquez