

Legal aid for Children; Basics and Mechanisms

*Mohammad Mahdi Meghdadi**

DOI: 10.22096/hr.2025.2050010.1707

Received Date: 30/06/2025 - Accepted Date: 30/11/2025

Abstract

Children are the most vulnerable group of human society due to their physical and mental disabilities. This is why there is no doubt in protecting children, especially in special and dangerous situations such as cases of child abuse, conflicts and family problems. Among these protections are support and legal services for them, which are done in the framework of legal aid. But unfortunately, this important issue has not been considered in our country and for this reason, Legal aid for children is explained and implemented in a traditional manner, like ordinary citizens, alongside them. In this article, taking into consideration the requirements of childhood, child rights standards and necessities, as well as the developments in developed countries, an attempt has been made to present the concept of legal aid, the basics and new and efficient mechanisms for legal aid for children (Children's Rights Clinic, friend of the court, Child Legal Empowerment, Street law).

Key words: legal aid; protection of children; Legal clinic; Friend of the court; Street Law; Child Legal Empowerment; Advocacy for children.

* Associate Professor, Department of Law, Mofid University, Qom, Iran.
Email: meghdadi@mofidu.ac.ir



Bibliography

- ʿAlīdūst, Abu'l-Qāsim. *Fiqh and Maṣlaḥah*. Qom: Research Institute of Islamic Culture and Thought, 2023. [In Persian]
- Al-San, Moṣṭafā (Elsan, Mostafa). "Fair Trial for Children." *Journal of Human Rights* 2, no. 2 (October 2007): 171–188. [In Persian]
- ʿAmīd, Ḥasan. *Farhang-e ʿAmīd*. Tehran: Amīrkabīr Publications, 1985. [In Persian]
- Ardabīlī, Aḥmad b. Muḥammad. *Majmaʿ al-fāʿidah wa'l-burhān fī sharḥ Irshād al-adhhān*. Qom: Jamāʿat al-Mudarrisīn, 1982. [In Arabic]
- Bryer, Margaret. *An Imaginative Co-operation: The History of the International Social Service of the United Kingdom 1955-2009*. Malvern: Etica Press, 2016.
- Chhabra, Saroj. "RIGHT TO FREE LEGAL AID AS HUMAN RIGHT." *Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research* 5, Issue 5 (May 2005).
- Chittick, William, et al. "Dignity." *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*, edited by John L. Esposito, vol. 2, 389–392. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Clark, David S. "The Legal Profession in Comparative Perspective: Growth and Specialization." *The American Journal of Comparative Law* 30, suppl_1 (1982): 163–175
- ISNA Press. "Childe Marriage In Iran." 2016. <https://www.isna.ir/news/97100804278>.
- Maqdadī, Moḥammad Maḥdī. *Moʿāzaʿat-e Ḥuqūqī*. Qom: Islamic Consultative Assembly Research Center, 2018. [In Persian]
- McQuoid-Mason, David, and Robin Palmer. *A Guide for Clinical Legal Staff*. Translated by ʿAbdollah Taqaddosī. Tehran: Judicial Research Institute, 2020. [In Persian]
- McQuoid-Mason, David. "Law clinics at African universities: An overview of the service delivery component with passing references to experiences in South and South-East Asia." *Journal for Juridical Science Special Issue* (2008):1-23.
- Moʿīn, Moḥammad. *Farhang-e Moʿīn*. Tehran: Amīrkabīr Publications, 1982. [In Persian]

- Montazerī Najafābādī, Ḥoseyn-‘Alī. *Islamic Punishments and Human Rights*. Qom: Arghavān-e Dānesh, 2008. [In Persian]
- Moṭahharī, Mortazā. *Fiqh va Ḥuqūq (Majmū‘eh-ye Āthār)*. 3 vols. Qom: Ṣadrā, 2006. [In Persian]
- Mūsavī Ardebīlī, Seyyed ‘Abdolkarīm. *Fiqh al-Qaḍā’*. Qom: Mofīd University Press, 2002. [In Persian]
- Nahj al-Balāghah*. Sharīf al-Raḍī, Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn .[In Persian]
- Nūbahār, Raḥīm. “Religion and Human Dignity.” In *Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Human Rights: Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights*, 339–358. Qom: Center for Human Rights Studies, Mofīd University, 2005. [In Persian]
- Olesen, A., S.P. P. Nielsen, and O. Hammerslev. “Gadejura– kunsten at fremelske gadefolkets oplevelse af at bære rettigheder.” [Street Law – The Art of Cultivating Street People's Experience of Carrying Rights] In *Outsourcing Legal Aid in the Nordic Welfare States Festskrift til Hans Viggo Godsk Pedersen*, edited by N. J. Clausen, 435–455. København: Jurist- og Økonomforbundets Forlag, 2017.
- Qurashī Banā‘ī, ‘Alī-Akbar. *Qāmūs al-Qur‘ān*. Tehran: Dār al-Kutub al-Islāmīyah, 2007. [In Persian]
- Regan, Francis. *The Transformation of Legal Aid: Comparative and Historical Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Ṣābirī Hamadānī, Aḥmad. *Al-Hidāyah ilā man lahu al-wilāyah*. Qom: al-Maṭba‘ah al-‘Ilmīyah, 1963. [In Arabic]
- Shahīd al-Thānī, Zayn al-Dīn b. ‘Alī. *Masālik al-afhām ilā tanqīḥ sharā‘i‘ al-Islām*. Vol. 13. Qom: Mu‘assasat al-Ma‘ārif al-Islāmīyah, 1413 AH. [In Persian]
- Sheykh-ol-Eslāmi, ‘Abbās, and Ebrāhīm Reżā Qolīzādeh. “Legal Assistance Provided by Counsel to Children in Criminal Proceedings (Comparative Study of the 2014 Code of Criminal Procedure and International Instruments).” *Quarterly Journal of Children’s Rights* 14 (Summer 2022): 1–25. [In Persian]
- Ṭabrisī, Ḥasan b. Faḍl. *Makārim al-akhlāq*. 4th ed. Qom: Sharīf Raḍī, 1991. [In Persian]
- Tangestāni, Moḥammad Qāsem. “Specialization of the Legal Profession in

Iran: Challenges and Solutions.” *Quarterly Journal of Private Law Studies* 52, no. 2 (Summer 2022): 347–370. [In Persian]

Tawhīdī, Muḥammad ‘Alī. *Miṣbāḥ al-fiqāhah*. Qom: Anṣāriyān, 1995. [In Arabic]

UNICEF. “Legal Aid For Children UNICEF. Launche The Children’s Legal Aid Pilot Project.” https://www.unicef.org/guyana/activities_9917.htm.

Warrām b. Abī Firās, Mas‘ūd. *Tanbīh al-khawāṭir wa nuzhat al-nawāzīr (Majmū‘at Warrām)*. Tehran: ‘Alī-Aṣghar Ḥāmid, 1997. [In Persian]