



Katrina Haslip Law Technical Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of Law TAP?

The purpose is to provide HIV-positive women the training and knowledge they need to become successful advocates for themselves on a range of legal issues including: government benefits, housing, family law and confidentiality.

Do I need to be HIV-positive to participate?

Yes, the class is only open to women who are HIV-positive.

I'm an HIV-positive woman but will I be welcome?

Yes. The HIV Law Project has a non-discrimination policy and encourages diversity in its programs: immigrant women, undocumented women, lesbian/gay women, transwomen, and women of all races, religions, ethnicities, nationalities, backgrounds and disabilities are welcome and encouraged to participate.

What if I am not comfortable with the other women in the class?

The HIV Law Project believes in creating a learning environment that is safe and productive for everyone – the participants as well as the program staff and presenters. Law TAP women are expected to be respectful of others and adhere to ground rules established at the beginning of the class. Women who engage in disruptive or disrespectful behavior will be asked to leave the program.

What if I am not feeling well – should I attend class?

This is a personal decision. However, participants are expected to be attentive and adhere to the class schedule. Because some participants may be in recovery, women are asked not to attend class if they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or prescription medication that interferes with their ability to participate fully.

Do I need prior advocacy experience or training to apply for Law TAP?

No. Law TAP is geared toward women with a range of skills and backgrounds. No prior experience or specific educational level is required.

Should I apply if I am not “out” about my HIV-status?

Your confidentiality is important to the HIV Law Project. Program participants are not, however, covered by article 27-f of the Public Health Law. Thus, confidentiality is not a guarantee. If you have confidentiality concerns, please talk to the Center Program Coordinator before applying.

Fighting since 1989 for the rights and dignity of people living with HIV/AIDS.

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How long is the program?

Law TAP is a six-week program.

When and how frequently does the class meet?

Classes are held from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. every Tuesday evening starting on October 13, 2009. In addition, there may be opportunities to participate in field trips and/or advocacy activities with women in the Center.

How big are the classes?

Each class consists of approximately twenty HIV-positive women. Generally, only 15-18 of those women enrolled will complete the program and graduate from Law TAP.

Who are the presenters?

The HIV Law Project staff.

What is the format of the class?

After a presentation, there are typically class exercises, Q&A sessions, and discussions of the material. Post-class assignments will also further participants' understanding of the material.

What if I cannot attend Law TAP for the whole 6 weeks?

The effectiveness of the program depends on regular attendance; women presently unable to commit for the whole 8 week period should consider deferring their enrollment.

What if I do not attend every class?

Women who have more than two unexcused absences will not graduate from the program and may be dropped from the program. In addition, participants are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class.

Is Law TAP a support group for HIV-positive women?

Law TAP is not a support group. While many HIV-positive women find support from other women in the group, personal sharing and support should take place before or after class time.

Is Law TAP a Peer Education training course? Will it lead to employment or Peer Stipend?

Law TAP **is not** an HIV/AIDS peer education program. It is not designed to lead to employment or greater access to volunteer positions paying stipends.

Is Law TAP the way I get legal services from the HIV Law Project?

No. If you need a lawyer or help with a legal problem, call the HIV Law Project for an intake appointment. **Law TAP classes are not designed to address your particular legal problems.** Legal advice will not be given during class.

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