

I took my two young cousins to the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic's Children's Legal Aid Project to find help due to criminal narcotics charges they were facing. I had seven children of my own, no money and nowhere to turn. My cousins were very young and were being held in prison as we could not afford bail.

The staff and lawyer we met with at legal aid were caring and encouraging. They were sympathetic to our circumstances and our lawyer even seemed upset when I told her about some of the injustices we had faced in the system.

Before we received assistance at children's legal aid the court process had been frustrating. We could not seem to get our point of view across to the magistrate and it did not seem like any progress was being made on our behalf. My cousins would get upset and it caused such stress when we went to court. We could not afford the original bail amount and my cousins were scared of having to go back to prison as being so young they were being targeted for abuse.

After we got our legal aid lawyer things started to happen and I finally felt some confidence. Legal aid worked quickly and got the bail amount reduced. Our lawyer even helped us find the money to pay the bail as the lower amount was still so much for us to handle financially. The situation is not over yet but at least my cousins are out of prison and safe.

After my cousin was released from prison on bail, she went back to see the lawyer at children's legal aid. The lawyer is helping her to get a fresh start and even doing her best to assist my cousin into getting into nursing school. My cousin has also mentioned wanting to become a lawyer now as she wants to help people the same way she was helped at children's legal aid.

My community and I were so happy to see that justice was being done, even for those like us who are less fortunate. Legal aid is a place where people will get help and get good results.