Saint Paul Public Library

Newcomer Services Coordination

Presentation to Library Board
August 5, 2026

Introduction

- Adriana Galván, Newcomer Services Coordinator
- Newcomer Services partially funded by the Marbrook Foundation through a grant to The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library
  - Partnerships and services
  - Community Services approach

Saint Paul Public Library

Welcome Points

Welcome Points allow the Library to have a display of reliable, trustworthy information in English and other languages about:

- Educational opportunities
- Legal providers
- Health services
- Digital accessibility
- Tech support information and services
- Social services support

Saint Paul Public Library

Examples of the materials

When children are afraid of a parent's deportation

As immigration enforcement orders intensify, many children are afraid of being separated from their parents and other loved ones. This document, prepared by child mental health professionals, describes steps that immigrant and refugee families can take to support their children's resilience and healthy relationships during this frightening time.

Starting conversations:

- Parents may worry that conversations about deportation will further traumatize their child. However, research shows that when children go through scary things, they are less afraid if they have been prepared about what to expect. Even though these conversations are hard, it is important to start them early.
  - Always take a moment to relax and calm yourself before starting a conversation like this. If you do not feel ready, take care of yourself and try again later.
  - You may need to talk with your child again and again about this topic to answer their questions and reassure them.
  - Use words your child understands and speak in a calm voice.
- Some children keep their worries private because they do not want to trouble their parents. Make sure your child knows that you want to hear about their private thoughts. You may say things like:
  - *"I was so sad when Mr. Jiménez was taken away this week. I wonder if you are afraid that the same thing will happen to me."*
  - *"I wonder if you have heard anyone at school saying mean things about people who moved here from another country."*
  - *"It is okay if you feel scared or mad or sad when we talk about this. I am not afraid of your feelings, and I always want to know what is on your mind."*
- Your child may hear things that suggest undocumented people are criminals or enemies. It is important that children know their parents are doing their best to be good people. Give them alternative language to understand what it means to be undocumented. We suggest emphasizing that it is an administrative problem. For example:
  - *"People need papers to be in the U.S., and many people (like me) are still waiting for ours. This does not mean I am a bad person; it just shows that it takes time to get these papers. I may have to live elsewhere for a while while I wait."*
- Even if your child is very young, tell them who will take care of them if you have to go away, what their days might look like at that person's house, and how you will be able to stay connected from afar. For example:
  - *"Jovi's parents will wake you, take you to daycare, play with you, give you dinner, brush your teeth, read you a story, and say goodnight."*
- Make sure the child has spent time in this home and knows this adult loves them.

The Advocates FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Alison Olson Cox Law
5601 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-293-7248
A, D, DA, G, N, P, S, TPS, T, U, V
Spanish

AMA Law Group
1113 E. Franklin Ave., Suite 104
Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-226-8799
A, C, CR, D, E, F, G, N, ST, TPS, W
Somali, Amharic

Aust Schmiechen
825 Nicollet Mall, Suite 623
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-724-4860
A, B, C, D, DA, F, G, L, N, P, S, U, W
Bosnian, Polish, Russian, Spanish

Amanda Bahena
300 S. Phillips Ave., Unit 300
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-336-3890
A, C, D, E, F, G, N, ST, W
Spanish

Baquero Law Office
7344 Cedar Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55423
612-872-6727
A, C, CR, DA, D, F, G, N, P, S, TPS, U, V, W
Spanish

Bienvenidos Law Firm
316 E. Main St.
Anoka, MN 55303
763-951-2235
A, C, F, G, N, U, V, W
Spanish

Binsfeld Law Firm
790 Cleveland Ave. S., Suite 206
St. Paul, MN 55116
612-339-0033
A, C, D, E, F, N, P, ST, TPS, U, V, W
Spanish

The Bortel Firm
825 Nicollet Mall, Suite 811
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-388-3366
A, C, DA, D, F, G, L, N, P, ST, T, U, V, W
French, Russian, Spanish

Breitman Immigration Law Firm
2901 Metro Dr., Suite 501
Bloomington, MN 55425
612-822-4724
A, C, CR, D, E, F, L, N, ST, W
Hungarian, Spanish

Carranza Immigration Law
1500 E. Capitol Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-291-3442
C, DA, F, G, N, T, U, V, W
Spanish

Contreras Edin Law
663 University Ave. W., Suite 200
St Paul, MN 55104
651-771-0019
A, C, CR, D, DA, F, G, N, P, S, T, U, V, W
Spanish

Davis & Egberg
3109 Hennepin Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55408
612-977-3188
A, C, CR, D, F, G, L, N, P, S, ST, TPS, U, V, W
French, Spanish

Davis & Goldfarb
1201 Harmon Pl., Suite 303
Minneapolis, MN 55403
612-630-2244
E, F, N
French, Spanish

De León & Nestor
3547 Cedar Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-822-6269
C, CR, DA, F, G, N, P, S, ST, T, U, V, W
Spanish

Eekhoff Law
300 N. Dakota Ave., Suite 201
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-368-1455
A, C, E, F, G, N, ST, W

Karen F. Ellingson
33 E. Wentworth Ave., Suite 360
West St. Paul, MN 55118
651-451-1660
A, C, D, F, N, TPS
Spanish

Engebretson Law
rachel@belegal-us.com
612-366-0479 (texts preferred)
A, C, CR, D, F, N, W

Fredrikson & Byron
60 S. 6th St., #1500
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-492-7165
A, C, E, F, G, N, ST, W
Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Vietnamese

Frey Law Office
1912 Lexington Ave. N., Suite 300
St. Paul, MN 55113
651-486-7117
A, C, CR, DA, D, E, F, G, L, N, S, T, TPS, U, V,

Goss Law
333 Washington Ave. N., Suite 208
Minneapolis, MN 55401
612-824-2244
A, C, D, DA, F, G, N, S, ST, U, V, W
Spanish

Graciela Gonzalez
P.O. Box 20
Wayzata MN 55391
612-207-5562
A, C, CR, D, E, F, L, N, ST, W
Spanish

Guyton Thuente
970 Raymond Ave., Suite G-60
St. Paul, MN 55114
651-641-8664
E, F, G, N
Spanish

Hart Law Office
310 E. 38th St., Suite G
Minneapolis, MN 55409
612-333-3003
C, F, N, U, V, W
Spanish

Hines Immigration Law
1700 W. Hwy. 36, Suite 120
Roseville, MN 55113
612-643-9272
A, C, CR, D, E, F, G, L, N, ST, T, U, V, W
Spanish

Immigration Law Professionals
112 N. University Dr., Suite 316
Fargo, ND 58102
701-298-7720
C, CR, F G, N, P, W

J.P. Larson Law Offices
5601 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-879-8223
A, F, G, N, P, S, T, U, V, W
Korean, Spanish

Practice Areas: Asylum (A), Consular (C), Criminal (CR), Deferred Action (DA), Deportation (D), Employment (E), Family (F), General (G), Litigation (L), Medical (M), Naturalization (N), Parole (P), SIJS (S), Student (ST), TPS, Trafficking (T), U-Visa (U), VAWA (V), Waiver (W).

Área de Práctica: Asilo (A), Procesamiento consular (C), Penal (CR), Acción Diferida (DA), Deportación (D), Empleo (E), Familia (F), General (G), Litigo (L), Medical (M), Naturalización (N), Permisos de permanencia temporal (P), SIJS (S), Estudiante (ST), Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS), Trata de personas (T), U-Visa (U), VAWA (V), Perdones (W).

Last updated March 2025

Education for Justice
A project of the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition

Fact Sheet

Powers of Attorney

What is a power of attorney?
A power of attorney is written permission for someone to take care of property or money matters for you, in the way you want. In a power of attorney document, you are called the "principal" (person giving the power). The person who takes care of things for you is called the "attorney-in-fact." This person doesn't have to be a lawyer.

How much power does my attorney-in-fact have?
If an attorney-in-fact takes legal action in your name, it is the same as if you had done it yourself. With a power of attorney, you can still act for yourself when you want to, but the attorney-in-fact can **also** act for you. They don't have to tell you before they do.

The attorney-in-fact is not your guardian. As long as you are competent, you can't be forced to move. You don't lose the right to control property or money. You don't lose the right to make decisions about your life like where you live and how you spend your time. You can revoke (take back) the power of attorney at any time.

Usually, you give a power of attorney so someone else can sign papers about property and money matters. The power can be limited to a certain thing, like selling a property, or it can be very broad, such as handling all property and money matters. It depends on what you write on the power of attorney form.

Who should I pick as my attorney-in-fact?
Any competent person 18+ can be your attorney-in-fact. This includes family members. Many people choose a spouse or child. It is important to pick someone you trust deeply. Remember they will have access to things like your bank accounts or property.

Saint Paul Public Library

Education

Coordinate educational referrals to families and individuals with Saint Paul Public Schools, Charter Schools, Adult Basic Education Providers, and Higher Ed and Trade Programs.

Digital Literacy Classes for the Knyaw (Karen), African American, and Latino Communities.

- Classes provide the opportunity to earn industry recognized certifications.
- Support learners in becoming peer volunteers and proctors and were able to provide them with grant-funded stipends.

Saint Paul Public Library

Education cont.

Actively enroll participants and promote Cell-Ed. A mobile app to learn English, take GED classes, practice US citizenship, and English for work.

- Lessons are taught by a live tutor 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and last four to five minutes.
- This mobile application is offered to all Adult Basic Education participants.
- By July 2026, we used all Cell-Ed learner licenses (133/130). Renewing an adding additional licenses for the coming year.

Saint Paul Public Library

Education support during Operation Metro Surge

Coordinator and Community Specialists provided technical support and language access to staff, teachers, students, and their families who needed to switch to online and e-learning.

Digital literacy classes were switched to online classes only.

Cell-Ed was extended for use by volunteers delivering food and essentials to the community. Volunteers wanted to learn Spanish to communicate with homebound families.

Saint Paul Public Library

Referrals

Through Newcomer Services Coordinator, families and individuals can connect, through referrals, with:

- Health Providers
- Dental Services
- Mental and Emotional Health Services
- Approved USCIS clinics
- Early Childhood Screenings

Saint Paul Public Library

Health referrals during surge

Saint Paul Public Library

Rapid Response Mutual Aid

In partnership with community groups and volunteers, SPPL Newcomer Services assisted homebound families by connecting them to deliveries of essential items.

SPPL added information to every delivery about online services, programming, books, creative arts, reading and interactive materials, magazines, and lists of resources. Copies of Lobizona, the Read Brave title were also included.

Referrals to social support services were provided on a case-by-case basis at the families' request.

There were **3,150** deliveries made to families in **twenty-one weeks**

Saint Paul Public Library

Legal support

Newcomer Services Coordinator and Community Specialists work in close collaboration with the City of Saint Paul Attorney's Office Immigrant and Refugee Program.

- Office provides training to library staff on the Separation Ordinance and other legal topics
- Facilitate citizenship fairs also in partnership with Minneapolis Department of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs. Rotates between Saint Paul and Minneapolis each month.

Saint Paul Public Library

Legal support during surge

- During surge, pivoted to virtual only Citizenship Fairs with interpreter support in multiple languages
- Waived notary fees for DOPA (delegation of parental authority forms)
- Worked closely with Saint Paul CAO and Minneapolis office to respond to urgent needs across the metro

Saint Paul Public Library

Other Support

- Assist small businesses and self-employed individuals with navigating funding assistance opportunities and submitting applications.
- Assist families and individuals with rental and mortgage assistance applications.
- Provided guidelines to library staff about what they legally can and cannot assist with.
- Provide referral guidelines.

Saint Paul Public Library

Next Steps

- Continue to promote Cell-Ed as an English learning and civic engagement tool.
- Develop a hub and toolkit of legal and other resources for newcomers, intended for use by SPPL staff.
- Continue to represent and participate in the Welcoming Minnesota Forum.
- Collaborate with the City of Saint Paul Immigrant and Refugee Program and partner with the City of Minneapolis Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.
- Enhance and maintain partnerships that connect families and individuals with available resources.

Saint Paul Public Library