

**She is N.A., a beneficiary of free legal service provided by CLCI.
Together with N.A., we have a story to tell.**

N.A., beneficiary of free legal service provided by CLCI: “The service offered by the CLCI’s lawyers has been vital with regard to my legal issues.”

N.A. came to the Center after she had legally ended her marriage. Tirana Judicial District Court had also decided to give the mother the right to parental responsibility for her minor children A.D and N.D and assigning the father's alimony obligation for the two children. N.A. has been caring for the children’s upbringing and education since September 2012, because the former spouse did not pay the child's obligation and did not meet the children. The former spouse of N.A. lives abroad and this fact has brought trouble to her and her children with regard to the enforcement of court decisions and the free movement of the children abroad to visit their mother's relatives.

CLCI’s lawyers started two court proceedings; Iris Aliaj, lawyer at the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives states:

Firstly, we requested the recognition and enforcement of the final judgment no. __ of the District Court of Tirana, "On alimony obligation for children", left in force with decision no. __ of the Court of Appeal of Tirana, in the Republic of Greece. With this request, we directly applied the Convention between the Republic of Albania and Greece on judicial assistance in civil and criminal matters, ratified by Law No. 7760, dated 14.10.1993 and we referred to Law No. 9554, dated 8.6.2006, “On adherence of the Republic of Albania in the convention "On the notification and handover of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil and commercial matters””. Tirana District Court accepted our request for recognition and enforcement of the final decision in Greece.

The Court’s decision, along with other documents, was sent to the Albanian Ministry of Justice, which has started the necessary procedures to enforce it by communicating with the Greek counterpart.

This new practice of implementing the Hague Convention on the Implementation of Judicial Decisions concerning alimony obligations for minor children was welcomed by the Greek Ministry of Justice, as a new practice for them to fulfill the obligations that derive from this convention.

This new practice is very important for the execution of alimony court decisions in other countries where the debtor parent has his or her residence, but requires the acceleration of the proceedings by the Ministry of Justice of our state in order to guarantee the de facto rights of children and the mother N.A.

Secondly, for more than 5 years N.A. did not travel with her children abroad, on vacation, to meet relatives, and continue vaccinations for her children born in Greece. Younger child N.D, who is part of a youth football team, was unable to travel with his team for football matches abroad due to the father (former N.A. spouse) not expressing his will before the notary. This fact has brought consequences to the child's emotional well-being. Under these conditions, at the same time, we requested an authorization from the Tirana District Court to carry out legal actions in the interest of the children, regarding their education, health care and permission to travel with them (A.D. and N.D.) abroad, without setting a legal deadline. The Court of Tirana District accepted the request. Through this practice, the CLCI has helped many women, who after getting divorced, are unable to move freely with their minor children, even for healthcare, to meet relatives, vacation, education, entertainment, etc.

N.A. states that: “The support provided by the CLCI lawyers has been very efficient and free of monetary expenses, which is very important because I am spending a lot for the upbringing of my children. The money I would need to get a lawyer to follow the process was invested in my children.

I wish that many children and mothers, who may be in the same or even more difficult conditions, would benefit from the work of the attorneys of this center”.