**CHAMPS**

(Carolina Health Advocacy Medicolegal PartnerShip)

* **What is CHAMPS?**

CHAMPS is a medical-legal partnership. The partners are USC School of Law and School of Medicine, Palmetto Health, PH-USC Medical Group, and SC Legal Services.

Its goals are (1) to positively impact patient health by addressing the social determinants of health and (2) to educate and train the next generation of doctors and lawyers to work collaboratively to address and improve patient health.

* **What is a medical-legal partnership (or MLP)?**

A medical-legal partnership (MLP) is an innovative model of healthcare that views legal services as part of patient health care and treatment. 60% of health is determined by social determinants, including unmet legal needs. An MLP integrates MLP lawyers into the healthcare team to improve patient health by addressing the social determinants of health.

* **What does CHAMPS do for Children’s Hospital patients and their families?**

CHAMPS takes legal cases affecting the health of patients seen at Children’s Hospital, the Children’s Hospital Outpatient Center and Special Care Center, and the PH-USC pediatric subspecialty clinics.

A faculty member and a staff attorney at the School of Law handle the cases referred to CHAMPS. In addition, law students and M.S.W. students work on those cases.

CHAMPS takes cases affecting income stability, access to health care, access to education, all of which affect health. Those cases are:

* + Medicaid
  + SSI (disability)
  + SNAP (food stamps)
  + TANF
  + Housing Conditions
  + Education (special education, 504, discipline matters)
* **What can I do? How can I use CHAMPS as a resource?**

1. Look out for the social-determinants of health in patients: needs for SSI (disability); problems with Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; problems in school, including with IEPs, suspensions or expulsions; housing conditions problems.
2. Refer those patients to CHAMPS.

* **How?**

Call CHAMPS! The phone number for patients to call is 777-2278. You can also call with questions anytime.