



Advocacy & Benefits Counseling

for HEALTH is a

Wisconsin-based, nonprofit, public interest law firm dedicated to ensuring Health care access for children and families, particularly those with special health care needs or who are at risk.

ABC for Health is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide the community of both patients and providers with the information, advocacy tools, legal services and expert support they need to secure health care coverage and services.



See us on the web!
www.abcforhealth.org

Helping Today...
There are few resources to help families both identify and advocate for health care coverage.

ABC for Health is unique in providing direct health benefits counseling and legal assistance to help families through the maze of coverage programs.

ABC for Health is committed to helping families Get coverage and care when the health care system seems impenetrable.



Health Benefits Counseling and Legal Services

▲ ABC for Health advocacy staff can help you locate health care financing resources for your family, offer counseling on the application or appeals process, and advocate for you when a conflict arises with an insurer, a public benefits program, or a provider's billing department.

▲ Knowing your rights is not always enough. You may need to have legal consultation and representation to enforce those rights. ABC for Health has legal staff to help you challenge health insurance claim denials, negotiate with creditors, and represent you in appeals before government agencies.



Coalition Building and Development

▲ ABC is the lead agency for Dane County's contribution to Covering Kids and Families, a nationwide effort sponsored by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, that seeks to connect uninsured kids and families to health care coverage programs through outreach and simplifying the enrollment process.

▲ Covering Kids with Special Needs focuses on improving the health care coverage and advocacy system for children with special health care needs and is funded by the Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

▲ HealthWatch Wisconsin is developing as a statewide effort to resolve problems of access to care and coverage and to improve the quality of health care for low-income families by focusing and amplifying the voice of health-care consumers.



Professional Training, Consultation, and Health System Research

▲ ABC for Health staff are seasoned teachers on health care financing issues. We offer comprehensive in-house training sessions for groups large and small, open-invitation conferences, and in-depth consultation to those interested in developing their health care financing knowledge and their benefits counseling skills.

▲ ABC for Health's newsletters can help you stay current in the ever-changing world of health care financing, especially our bi-monthly CKSN Update. ABC's website (www.abcforhealth.org) features fact sheets on financing resources, web versions of our newsletters, and links to vital info for the health benefits counselor.

▲ Individual casework is our key to understanding the structure of the health coverage systems and how it fails the American people. At ABC for Health, we work to translate our case-level insights into strategies for change by taking an active advocacy role in public policy debates at both the state and national level.

Building Tomorrow...

At ABC for Health, we believe that an efficient and effective health care system needs well-informed consumers; health care providers who are sensitive and prepared to help with consumer health care financing problems; and readily available advocacy resources to help people cut through the red tape.

Through our counseling and legal services, education, and systems advocacy programs, ABC for Health is ready to be your partner and your link to health care coverage and services.

Wondering how to pay for your family's health care?

ABC for Health provides Health Benefits Counseling for families. This service includes information and problem-solving for families having difficulty paying for health care or having problems with insurance, HMOs or public benefits programs that provide health care coverage. Legal services are provided free or on a sliding fee scale.

Who is eligible for ABC services?

▲ families with children through age 18 who have chronic or terminal illnesses or disabilities.

When should I call?

- ▲ When you don't know how to get health care coverage
- ▲ When your health insurance company denies a claim
- ▲ When you have been denied Medicaid/BadgerCare coverage or benefits.
- ▲ When you have a complaint against your HMO.
- ▲ When you have been denied health insurance coverage or had your insurance cancelled.
- ▲ When you have medical bills you cannot pay
- ▲ When you do not understand your health insurance policy of Medicaid/BadgerCare benefits.
- ▲ When you feel your rights as a health consumer have been violated.

What services do ABC for Health counselors provide?

- ▲ Information about sources of financial assistance for medical or dental care.
- ▲ Assistance in getting eligibility and benefits under the Medical Assistance program.
- ▲ Assistance in filing complaints and appeals.
- ▲ Consultation about your rights and obligations under your health insurance plan.
- ▲ Referral for legal services from ABC for Health attorneys and others.

ABC for Health counselors will:

- ▲ treat you with respect
- ▲ offer counseling services that are free and confidential
- ▲ help you apply for health care coverage
- ▲ help you find ways to pay medical debt
- ▲ help you fight a private insurance, Medicaid or BadgerCare denial.

ABC for Health

Offices...

The main ABC for Health office is in downtown Madison.

Field offices in Polk and Barron counties in the northwest add a rural dimension to our services and expertise — and bring us close to the diverse urban and rural communities of Wisconsin.



Madison

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Visit our Web Site at:

<http://www.abcforhealth.org>

ABC for Health thanks the following agencies for their ongoing and generous support of our services:

Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation;
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Counseling

for HEALTH

*A nonprofit law firm
dedicated to connecting
Wisconsin families to
health coverage and
care.*