
Frequently Asked Questions About TPAL

Q: *How do I indicate an interest in participating in a TPAL training event?*

A: Contact Doris or Cindy at the Bar Foundation. 402/475-1042 or doris@nebarfnd.org; cindy@nebarfnd.org.

Q: *What is the cost of TPAL training?*

A: You may be eligible to receive training at no cost to you other than purchasing a set of TPAL manuals at \$200 per set.

Q: *Must I agree to sponsor a program if I take the training?*

A: You may become trained in the TPAL curriculum without making a commitment to sponsor a TPAL program through your organization.

Q: *What is required by our organization to become a sponsor of a TPAL program?*

A: As stated above, you must have one or more trainers. Of course, you will need students. If you already work with teens parents, the TPAL curriculum should integrate nicely with your current offerings. A facility that is easily accessible to students is also a start-up consideration. Because having a set of manuals is a requirement for training, you will already be set with TPAL materials.

Q: *How will the Bar Foundation and Street Law, Inc. assist me with my program?*

A: Both the Bar Foundation and Street Law, Inc. are available to answer your questions; to help recruit attorneys and judges as resource people; and to meet your continued TPAL training needs.



NEBRASKA STATE BAR FOUNDATION

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STREET LAW

Street Law, Inc.

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Youth for Justice

Street Law, Inc. is a national partner of Youth for Justice (YFJ), a division of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the United States Department of Justice. The Nebraska State Bar Foundation enjoys YFJ's designation as the Nebraska State Center for Law-Related Education for the Public.

The Bar Foundation has also received grant funding from YFJ to further the Teen Parents and the Law program in Nebraska. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support it receives from YFJ and Street Law.

Teen Parents and the Law Program

in Nebraska



Developers and Sponsors

Teen Parents and the Law (TPAL) is a program developed by Street Law, Inc. to help young parents strengthen their families and prevent child abuse and neglect. In Nebraska, it is jointly sponsored by the Nebraska State Bar Foundation and Street Law, Inc. Its innovative curriculum provides:

- Practical Legal Knowledge
- Access to Community Resources and
- Life Skills



Program Content

The TPAL program has reached hundreds of parents in more than 30 states with concrete results in areas such as:

- Filing for custody, child support, and paternity
- Reporting child abuse and neglect
- Finding housing
- Addressing consumer problems
- Learning the legal rights and responsibilities of parenthood

Program Settings

TPAL is used to teach about the law in a variety of settings including schools (especially Family and Consumer Science classes and parenting support services), community parenting programs, and court-ordered parenting classes.

Adults as Role Models

Much of the success of this law-related education program depends on “pro-social” adults as role models. In each community where the TPAL program is implemented, the Bar Foundation has recruited lawyers, judges, police officers and other professionals as resource people to assist the TPAL teachers.

Easy-to-Use Materials

The two-volume TPAL curriculum is arranged in a manner that is easy for teachers to use. It provides:

- Step-by-step lesson plans
- Tips on recruiting attorneys and utilizing resource people
- Innovative teaching strategies
- Evaluation tools
- Internet resources for each lesson
- Student materials in English and Spanish

Log on to www.streetlaw.org then select “Teen Parents and the Law” from the U.S. Programs drop-down menu to access a sample lesson.

Nebraska Program Participants

In Nebraska, seventy teachers have participated in the two-day TPAL training and are qualified to teach the course. Organizations implementing the program include:

1. Omaha Public Schools
2. Lincoln Public Schools
3. CEDARS Youth Service, Lincoln
4. University of Nebraska – Cooperative Extension, North Platte
5. Plattsmouth Public Schools

Other groups represented at the training sessions include police departments and school resource officers, visiting nurses, advocates for fathers, and other social service agencies.



Successes of the Program

These are comments received as feedback from one of the TPAL teachers:

- “One 16 year old mother told a staff (member) after the lesson on abuse and neglect that now she knew for the first time why she was taken out of the home. It didn’t make sense to her before. She then proceeded to talk for at least an hour about how she was going to do it differently.”
- “A teen father who reported that he did not have any use for the police department stated on his reflection paper that he had changed his mind and would call the police for help.”
- “Teen mothers and fathers met in groups and stated their opinion. They were able to explain, see others’ views and stand up for their opinion.”
- “Several parents put into action custody agreements and child support enforcement after gaining information from the lesson.”



Trainees explore Street Law's TPAL lessons.



Teen parents give their attention to an attorney resource person.

Starting a TPAL Program

The first step in beginning a TPAL program is to have one or more teachers or youth group sponsors who complete Street Law's TPAL training through the Bar Foundation.