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LEGAL AID SERVICES OF OKLAHOMA ENHANCES RIGHT-TO-COUNSEL SERVICES TO COMBAT HOUSING INSTABILITY AND EVICTIONS ACROSS OKLAHOMA CITY METROPOLITAN AREA

Oklahoma City, Okla. (Dec. 14, 2023) – Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO) continues its commitment to support vulnerable communities by expanding its impactful Right to Counsel (RTC) initiative in the Oklahoma City metro area. The initiative, now accessible in three key Oklahoma County zip codes – 73120, 73111 and 73119 – offers critical free legal aid to individuals confronting housing evictions.

The RTC initiative surpasses mere representation at eviction proceedings; it aims to intervene early, empowering tenants facing rent shortages to seek legal assistance before eviction filings. By disrupting the cycle of housing instability, LASO endeavors to provide Oklahomans with renewed opportunities and choices. More than a legal aid program, RTC embodies principles of racial and economic justice, ensuring every individual's right to a secure home while potentially serving as a catalyst for long term housing stability progress.

"Housing instability persists, but we aim to inform tenants in these zip codes that free legal support is available well before eviction becomes an imminent threat," said Michael Figging, LASO Executive Director. "Our objective is to stand by them, offering advocacy and support throughout every stage of this challenging process. In addition to this support, we also hope to continue working with the community-at-large to determine long-term solutions to the housing eviction crisis."

The zip codes identified for RTC expansion underwent rigorous scrutiny, evaluating eviction filing statistics by LASO advocates. According to the Legal Services Corporation eviction tracker, Oklahoma County witnessed 18,770 eviction filings in 2022 alone. Presently, only three states and 15 jurisdictions nationwide have legislation or ordinances guaranteeing legal representation for renters facing eviction.

Individuals seeking more information about LASO and its services can visit www.legalaidok.org. Tenants inquiring about eligibility for free legal assistance can contact 405.554.4636. For those outside the specified zip codes, support and guidance concerning landlord issues or evictions are accessible at <https://oklaw.org/issues/housing/evictions>.

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About Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc. (LASO) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that provides civil legal assistance to low-income persons throughout Oklahoma. LASO was born in 2001 when Legal Aid Services of Eastern Oklahoma, Inc. and Legal Aid of Western Oklahoma were merged to create a unified program for the state. LASO maintains 18 offices throughout Oklahoma.