

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Legal Aid Calls on Mayor de Blasio to Sign Legislation that Would Provide Critical Oversight of the Prescription of Psychiatric Medication for Children in Foster Care

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society called on Mayor Bill de Blasio to sign [Intro. 1358/2021](#), legislation that would require the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to collect and report data about the use of powerful psychiatric medication on children in its custody:

"The Legal Aid Society lauds the New York City Council, and specifically Council Member Stephen Levin, for passing this critical piece of legislation that will provide key oversight of powerful psychiatric medication used on children and youth placed in foster care in New York City.

When prescribed appropriately and monitored closely these drugs can have significant benefits for those with mental health conditions. However, these medications can cause profound and, at times, permanent adverse effects on children. Studies reveal significantly higher rates of psychotropic medication use for children in foster care than in the general population. Children in foster care are also routinely prescribed multiple psychiatric medications at one time and at doses that exceed recommendations.

Data required by Int. 1358 will help identify and provide the opportunity to address these problematic prescribing practices. Currently, the Administration for Children's Services is way behind state and federal child welfare standards which call for effective medication monitoring. This bill is a great first step in demanding this accountability for some of our most vulnerable clients, and we call on Mayor de Blasio to sign it immediately."

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 145 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. www.legalaidnyc.org