



Special Needs

Meet the People We Help...

Problem

Janice had two children with autism who tended to speak loudly and threw noisy tantrums in their small rented apartment. The family's landlord threatened to evict them because of the disturbance. As a young single mother who worked fulltime, the cost and burden of uprooting her children from their home would have been devastating. Janice called the JF&CS to find out if she had any protection against her landlord's discriminatory threats.

Solution

The knowledgeable special needs resource coordinator assured Janice that her landlord had no right to evict her family because they are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act. They contacted legal specialists on her behalf and gave her a copy of the act for her to present to her landlord, and they offered to mediate any conversations about the matter between the two parties. In addition, they connected Janice with other resources for children with autism.

Outcome

Upon being presented with the section of the Americans with Disabilities Act that protects the rights of Janice's children, the landlord dropped his threats of eviction. The family continued to live in their apartment without trouble for several more years until they could afford a house of their own. "It was just a simple case," according to special needs resource coordinators. "But we really made a difference in their lives."