



Physicians for  
Human Rights

## Asylum Network Services Overview

The Asylum Network at Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) consists of hundreds of health professionals throughout the country who offer pro bono psychological and physical evaluations to document evidence of torture and other abuse for men and women fleeing persecution in their home countries.

**Step One: Getting started.** If your client is seeking humanitarian protection in the United States and needs a forensic evaluation to support his or her legal claim, please fill out the intake form and email it to PHR. The Asylum Network currently provides evaluations for asylum, withholding of removal, CAT, T visa, U visa, VAWA, and SIJS applicants.

Due to the high demand for evaluations, PHR can usually only provide **either** a psychological or a physical/gynecological evaluation. If your client requires more than one type of evaluation, **please indicate which type of evaluation is a priority**. Because the placement and evaluation process takes some time, we **require that you email this form at least eight weeks before the affidavit is required**. PHR cannot guarantee that an evaluation will be secured for every case. The probability that your case will be placed increases with advance notice. Once the intake form is received, PHR staff will contact you with any questions or concerns about your case and will let you know if we have accepted the case for referral to our volunteers.

**Step Two: Matching your case with a health professional.** After we have accepted your request, PHR staff will contact health professionals near your client to determine if someone is available to perform an evaluation. Once a volunteer is identified, we will provide you with the name and contact information of the health professional. We are happy to provide volunteers with sample affidavits and other resources to assist.

**You will be responsible for contacting the volunteer health professional and making an appointment for your client.**

**Our volunteers have limited language skills. You will be responsible for securing a qualified, non-family member interpreter if your client needs one for the evaluation.**

**Step Three: Conducting the evaluation.** The health professional volunteer will examine your client in the detention center or an agreed upon location. Prior to the evaluation, please provide the volunteer health professional with a copy of your client's affidavit, prior medical records, and any other relevant information at least one week prior to the evaluation.

**Step Four: Drafting the affidavit.** If the health professional evaluator determines that the physical or psychological sequelae are consistent with the asylum seeker's allegations, the health professional will prepare an affidavit to submit to court. It is important to maintain close contact with the health professional while he or she is drafting this document to make sure that any issues or questions are addressed in a timely fashion. Although counsel has principal responsibility to schedule the evaluation and follow up with the physician, PHR staff is available to help if problems arise.

**Step Five: Reporting back.** Once the case is completed, please inform both PHR and the health professional of the case's outcome. **Information on all case outcomes helps support the fundraising that makes this service possible.**

Please do not hesitate to call us at 646-564-3448 or email [asylum@phrusa.org](mailto:asylum@phrusa.org) with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time. We look forward to working with you.