



ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The Advocacy Center (AC) is a statewide non-profit agency providing free legal services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

THE PROBLEM

People with disabilities are at high risk for many types of abuse and neglect, including physical, sexual, financial or emotional. This abuse can be inflicted by family (parent, child, spouse, etc.), friends, neighbors, paid caregivers or others. Abuse and neglect can occur anywhere: at home, in the community, in institutions, or other places. Studies estimate that between 40% - 97% of crime against persons with disabilities goes unreported. Among women with disabilities, the average rate of rape and abuse is five times greater than that of the general population.

THE SOLUTION

The Advocacy Center can assist victims of abuse and neglect with disabilities in several ways:

- 1) Assist in defending clients or removing curators (guardians) in abusive situations.
- 2) Represent clients in Adult Protective Services proceedings, when appointed.
- 3) Assist in suing persons guilty of financial exploitation to attempt to recover money or goods taken from the victim.
- 4) Provide information and refer abuse/neglect victims to law enforcement, domestic violence programs, sexual assault centers or other social service agencies for help in obtaining community supports.
- 5) Assist victims of financial abuse to designate someone trustworthy to receive his/her benefits, such as SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance).
- 6) Refer the victim of abuse or neglect to Adult Protective Services program for investigation, assessment, and case management.
- 7) Provide technical assistance to domestic violence and sexual assault centers to better serve persons with disabilities.
- 8) Investigate institutional abuse or neglect.

SERVICES

The Advocacy Center serves individuals with physical AND/OR mental disabilities throughout Louisiana. All clients must be residents of Louisiana. All services are provided free of charge. If you are a person with a disability and a victim of abuse or neglect, contact the Advocacy Center.

For Assistance:

Call: TOLL-FREE 1-800-960-7705 (Voice) 1-866-935-7348 (TTY)

To request services in Vietnamese, call 1-800-960-7705, extension 153. Để đòi hỏi những công tác (dịch vụ) bằng tiếng Việt, xin gọi 1-800-960-7705, mở rộng 153.

For information in Spanish, please call 1-800-960-7705, ext. 152. Para información en español por favor llame 1-800-960-7705, ext.152

Write: 1010 Common Street, Suite 2600, New Orleans, LA 70112

Visit our website: www.advocacyla.org

AC has offices in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Shreveport