



ADVOCACY CENTER

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# PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (PAAT)

The PAAT Program provides free legal services, information, and training to persons whose assistive technology issues are directly related to their disability.

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

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The Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program provides free legal services and outreach, statewide, to people with disabilities.

**Assistive Technology** can be a piece of equipment, a device, or a service which assists a person with a disability. It can help a person to reach personal or professional goals in school, at work, at home, or in recreational activities in the community. Examples of AT include a wheelchair, van lift, ramp, computer that reads and speaks, remote control for home appliances, Braille book, hearing aid, grab bar, special eating utensils, telephone amplifier, artificial limb, voice box, and modified office equipment. AT services may include repairs, and instruction on how to use the equipment.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for PAAT services, an individual must

- be a Louisiana resident, AND
- have a disability, AND
- need legal assistance in obtaining assistive technology equipment or related services

## SERVICES

### INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Provide information regarding legal rights, and referrals to service providers, support groups and other advocacy agencies.

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Provide information on AC and PAAT services. Provide training to consumers, clients, family members, caregivers, and professionals. Topics include client rights to assistive technology under Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Medicaid, Medicare, Special Education programs, as well as rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and public benefits programs.

## SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

Work to improve systems issues involving assistive technology, including Medicare/Medicaid and provision of AT by employers.

## INDIVIDUAL CASE ADVOCACY

Services may include a review of records to determine the merit of the case, counseling and advice, negotiation, and representation at administrative and court proceedings.

**AC provides assistance to those seeking assistive technology equipment and/or services from or payment by the Louisiana Department of Education and its local school systems, institutions providing post-secondary education, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Medicaid, Medicare, or employers.**

**For assistance or information about whether the Advocacy Center can provide assistance in a specific situation, call or email the Advocacy Center.**

### **For Assistance:**

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

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

Visit our website: [www.advocacyla.org](http://www.advocacyla.org)

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

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.

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