



ADVOCACY CENTER

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (PADD)

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

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for PADD services, an individual must:

- be a Louisiana resident; AND
- have a physical or mental disability which occurred before the age of 22; AND
- have a disability which substantially limits the ability to perform 3 of the following functions: language, learning, mobility, self-care, self direction, independent living, economic self-sufficiency; AND
- need long-term care or services; AND
- have an issue that falls within Advocacy Center priorities.

Children under 5 years old who are Louisiana residents will be eligible IF:

- they have a substantial developmental delay (begin to perform activities such as walking, talking, learning, toileting, much later than the average child); OR
- they have a condition, which is expected to cause a developmental delay unless they receive services; AND have an issue that falls within AC priorities.

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 PADD services. Provide training on special education, ADA, the laws governing interdiction, and related topics.

INVESTIGATIONS

- Make findings and recommendations about systemic problems that cause injury to persons with disabilities.

SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

- Protect people in residential settings from harm & promote their removal to community settings;
- Increase access to direct service providers for persons with disabilities;
- Increase availability of affordable and accessible housing;
- Insure that children with disabilities in institutional settings are receiving appropriate educational services;
- Insure that any managed care plan implemented by the State covers behavioral/mental health services to the extent needed;
- Increase access to public transportation services;
- Insure that physical & programmatic accessibility issues are addressed in the area of emergency management;
- Increase the availability of public guardianship services, as necessary;
- Improve guardianship laws as regarding clarity & fairness.

INDIVIDUAL CASE ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Center will represent individual eligible clients if the issue conforms to one or more of the following:

- **Special Education**
 - Failure to provide educational services in the Least Restrictive Environment.
 - Illegal delay or denial of initial evaluation requests.
 - Illegal denial of school services.
- **Abuse/Neglect in the Community or in Institutional Settings**
- **Financial Entitlements**
 - Denial of eligibility for Medicaid
 - Reduction, termination, denial of payment for medically necessary goods & services
 - Denial of Eligibility for Medicare
- **Defense of Involuntary Discharge from Residential Facilities**
- **Discharge Planning from Large Institutions to Less Restrictive Setting**
- **Access**
 - Programs & services of local, state, federal government where the lack of access is egregious, involves a critical need, has widespread impact, or involves AC targeted systems priorities.
 - Private places of public accommodation where the lack of access is egregious, involves a critical need, has widespread impact, or involves AC targeted systems priorities.
- **Housing Discrimination**
- **Self Determination**
 - Challenges to clients' rights to make decisions & choices
 - Limitations on decision-making
 - Powers of Attorney/Living Wills/Representative payee issues
 - Continuing Tutorship
 - Revocations/defense of interdiction; requests for court review of curator.

For Assistance:

Call: TOLL-FREE 1-800-960-7708 (Voice) 1-866-935-7348 (TTY)

Write: 1010 Common St, Suite 2600, New Orleans, La. 70112

Visit our Website at www.advocacyla.org

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

To request services in Vietnamese, call 1-800-960-7705, extension 153.

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.