



ADVOCACY CENTER

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS (PAIR)

The PAIR Program provides free legal services and training to people whose legal issues are directly related to their disabilities.

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 PAIR services, an individual must

- be a Louisiana resident;
- have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits at least one major life activity, such as walking, learning, working, seeing OR
- have a record of such an impairment; OR
- be regarded as having such an impairment; AND
- not be eligible for representation through any other Advocacy Center program.

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 PAIR services. Provide training as needed.

SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

Insure that plans to evacuate and shelter people with disabilities in Louisiana are adequate.

Increase availability of options for community services for people with disabilities.

Insure that sufficient accessible housing is provided to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Improve accessibility of public transportation and pedestrian access in Louisiana communities.

INDIVIDUAL CASE ADVOCACY

Services may include a review of records to determine the merit of the case, negotiation, and representation at administrative and court proceedings. AC selects cases from the following priority areas:

Abuse/Neglect

- Assist persons in institutions or in the community, who have been subjected to or threatened with physical or sexual abuse.

Accessibility

- Remove physical and programmatic barriers to government and private facilities and services.
- Assist in obtaining access to housing and transportation.

Assistive Technology (through AC's PAAT Program)**Self-Determination**

- Defend against, overturn or limit interdictions or continuing tutorships; challenge inappropriate curators (guardians)
- Assist clients with Social Security and SSI representative payee issues

Public Benefits

- Appeal Medicaid and Medicare denials of eligibility and/or payment for services

Rights Protection

- Provide information about rights and assist people residing in institutions (such as a group home or nursing home) to secure rights such as privacy, access to records, informed consent, recreation, visitors, defense of involuntary discharge or transfer

Special Education

- Provide self-advocacy materials

For Assistance:

Call: TOLL-FREE 1-800-960-7705 (Voice) 1-866-935-7348 (TTY)
Write: 1010 Common Street, Suite 2600, New Orleans, La. 70112
Visit our website at 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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