

What rights?

PEOPLE WHO ARE developmentally disabled have rights like anybody else. However, sometimes they may have problems securing these rights. For example:

Appropriate treatment ■ Free and appropriate public education ■ Employment ■ Freedom from discrimination ■ Privacy ■ Appropriate habilitation ■ Physical access to buildings, transportation and services ■ Freedom to make their own decisions whenever possible,...

...and to live their lives as fully and normally as possible.

The people we serve

The Protection & Advocacy for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) Program serves people who have developmental disabilities, as defined by federal legislation. According to this legislation a developmental disability is one which:

- (A) is due to a mental and physical impairment or combination of both;
- (B) begins before the person reaches age twenty-two;
- (C) is likely to continue indefinitely;
- (D) results in substantial limitations in three or more of the following vital activities:
1. self-care
 2. speaking and understanding
 3. learning
 4. mobility
 5. self-direction
 6. capacity for independent living
 7. economic self-sufficiency
- (E) reflects the person's need for a combination of special care, treatment, or other services which are individually planned and coordinated.

Commonly, individuals with mental retardation, autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy and neurological impairments are developmentally disabled.

Services provided

The PADD Program, together with its contracting agencies, provides:

- 1 Individual Assistance**
 - Investigates and negotiates solutions to problems .
 - Give legal advice and goes to court, if necessary, on behalf of clients.
- 2 Information and Referral**
 - Provides individuals and their families or guardians with information on their rights and how to protect them.
 - Refers other individuals, who are not eligible, to federal, state or local agencies who can give them the help they need.
- 3 Legal Advocacy**
 - Helps advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities in resolving difficulties with agencies providing services.
 - Give technical assistance to lawyers to make them more effective in representing their clients with developmental disabilities.
- 4 Advocacy Training and Networking**
 - Organizes individual and group training programs upon request. Develops training materials.
 - Participates in local and statewide coalitions of concerned organizations.
- 5 State Legislation**
 - Studies policies, practices, and legislation which influence the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Where services are available

Information and referral services are available through:

PADD Program
NYS Commission on Quality of Care
401 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12305-2397

(518) 388-2892

Regional Outreach Offices

New York City Region: Bronx, Richmond, Kings, Manhattan, Queens

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Inc.
151 West 30th Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10001-4007 (212) 244-4664

Upper Hudson Region: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Schenectady, Schoharie, Rensselaer, Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga

Disabilities Law Clinic at Albany Law School
80 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208 (518) 445-2328
Intake: Disability Advocates, Inc. (518) 432-7861

North Country Region: St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Washington

Legal Aid Society of Northeast NY
P.O. Box 989, 100 Court Street (800) 722-7380
Plattsburgh, NY 12901 (518) 563-4022

Canton Office
Legal Aid Society of Northeast NY
P.O. Box 648, 38 Gouverneur St. (800) 822-8283
Canton, NY 13617 (315) 386-4586

Lower Hudson Region: Westchester, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Putnam, Dutchess, Ulster

Legal Services for the Hudson Valley
4 Cromwell Place Intake 1-877-574-8529
White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 949-1305

Central Region: Jefferson, Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Herkimer, Lewis, Oneida

Southern Tier Region: Chemung, Schuyler, Tompkins, Broome, Delaware, Otsego, Chenango, Tioga

Legal Services of Central New York, Inc.
The Empire Building
472 South Salina Street, Suite 300
Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 475-3127
Toll-Free 1-866-475-9967

Western Region: Livingston, Steuben, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Allegany, Wyoming, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Monroe

Western New York Advocacy
for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc.
590 South Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620 (585) 546-1700

Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.
295 Main Street
Ellicott Square Building, Room 495
Buffalo, NY 14203 (716) 847-0650

Long Island Region: Nassau, Suffolk

Long Island Advocates, Inc.
575 Underhill Boulevard, Suite 118 (516) 496-3606
Syosset, New York 11791 (516) 496-4158

What is protection & advocacy?

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 1975 (Public law 103-230) requires states to establish a protection and advocacy system for persons with developmental disabilities which is capable of providing a full range of advocacy services including the ability to pursue legal, administrative and other appropriate remedies. In New York, this designated agency is the **NYS Commission on Quality of Care**.

To carry out the provisions of this system, the Commission has established within its organizational structure an **Advocacy Services Bureau** which, in addition to providing direct services, also administers, through contracts with several legal and advocacy agencies, a statewide network of regional protection and advocacy offices.

NYS COMMISSION ON QUALITY OF CARE

TOLL FREE [New York State]:
1-800-624-4143 [Voice/TDD]

Fax: (518) 388-2890

e-mail: webmaster@cqc.state.ny.us

401 State Street

Schenectady, NY 12305-2397

Website: www.cqc.state.ny.us



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Angelo T. Muccigrosso
COMMISSIONERS

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are
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business



New York State
Commission on Quality of Care
Protection & Advocacy for Persons
with Developmental Disabilities