

What is Disability Rights New York?

In June, 2013, Disability Advocates, Inc. was designated by Gov. Andrew Cuomo as the Protection & Advocacy (P&A) System for persons with disabilities in New York. We are now named Disability Rights New York (DRNY). As the P&A for New York, we advocate for the civil and legal rights for New Yorkers with disabilities.

New York residents with disabilities can contact DRNY for assistance with problems directly related to their disabilities. DRNY administers the following grant-based programs:

PADD – Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities;

PAIMI – Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness;

PAIR – Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights;

PAAT – Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology;

CAP – Client Assistance Program;

PAVA – Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access;

PATBI – Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injuries; and

PABSS – Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security

DRNY investigates complaints and provides direct assistance to callers with disability-related issues under the terms of the grants listed above and our annual goals and priorities.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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DRNY receives funding from the U.S. Department of Human Services (HHS) to implement the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended. This information or content and conclusions are those of DRNY and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HHS or the U.S. Government.



Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology

PAAT can help if you are seeking funding for OR access to assistive technology devices and trainings for:

- Community-based living
- Employment
- Education

What is PAAT?

The **Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)** program provides free legal and advocacy services to people with disabilities who are seeking funding or access to assistive technology devices or services.

What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology is any piece of equipment or system that can help you live, study, and/or work with greater ease. This term is broad, and applies to any cost AT.

Some examples of **AT Devices** are:

- Augmentative communication devices,
- Reaching and grabbing aids,
- Adapted vehicles,
- Wheelchairs or wheelchair components,
- Shower chairs,
- Walkers,
- Hospital beds,
- Nebulizers,
- Portable ramps.

PAAT Services

PAAT staff provides a full range of advocacy and legal services and trainings at no cost to eligible individuals with disabilities or representative groups.

PAAT staff may:

- Provide legal, administrative, and other appropriate means of representation to ensure the protection of the rights of eligible individuals in the following areas:
 - Obtaining and maintaining AT through Medicaid, managed care or private insurance to **live independently in your community**;
 - Obtaining reasonable AT accommodations to **access or maintain employment**; and
 - Obtaining reasonable AT supports to further **educational goals** and transition from **school to the workplace**.
- Provide technical assistance and training to assist individuals with disabilities in need of AT devices and services.
- Engage in outreach to individuals in need of AT devices.
- Respond to ongoing and systemic statewide issues relating to reasonable access to AT equipment and services through mediation, litigation, and policy advocacy.

Can PAAT Help You?

PAAT can help you if you are:

- An individual with disabilities in need of Assistive Technology equipment, services, or training.
- An individual who seeks or sought Medicaid Prior Approval, but was denied requested AT and/or reimbursement.
- An employee in need of an AT device or service necessary to further employment.
- An employer seeking to understand the legal responsibilities to provide employees reasonable AT accommodations.
- A student with specific AT need to further education.
- An educator seeking to understand the legal responsibilities to provide students with reasonable AT accommodations.
- A group, association, or individual interested in learning more about AT funding availability for individuals with disabilities.
- A group, association, or individual reporting an ongoing and systemic statewide issues relating to reasonable access to AT equipment and services through mediation, litigation, and legislation.