

WHAT IS DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK?

Disability Rights New York (DRNY) is the Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program (P&A/CAP) for persons with disabilities in New York. As the P&A/CAP for New York, DRNY advocates 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 investigates complaints and provides direct assistance to callers with disability-related issues under the terms of its federal grants and its annual goals and priorities.

WHAT IS DRNY'S INTAKE PROCESS?

The Intake Unit collects the information necessary to determine what help is available. Depending on the situation and resources available, DRNY may provide the following services:

- Direct Representation
- Printed Materials
- Referrals
- Technical Assistance
- General Advice

In order to make sure your matter is addressed promptly and to make sure we can properly serve you, please provide accurate and correct information. All information you provide to the Intake Unit is confidential and will not be shared.

Calling the Intake Unit is the fastest and most efficient way of getting your issue evaluated.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Disability Rights New York

If you are a person with a disability and experiencing problems directly related to your disability, or have questions, DRNY may be able to assist you.

WHAT DOES DRNY DO?

DRNY provides legal assistance to individuals with disabilities. DRNY's mission is to protect and advance the rights of adults and children who have disabilities so that they can freely exercise their own life choices, enforce their rights, and fully participate in their community life.

DRNY carries out this mission in a number of ways: through advocacy, coalition building, litigation, and public information. Additionally, DRNY provides technical support to other advocates for people with disabilities in New York. This assistance is provided through a combination of the following eight programs:

PAIMI — Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness

PAIMI serves people with a diagnosis of serious mental illness. PAIMI prioritizes individuals in a facility receiving care and treatment and has the ability to investigate complaints of neglect and abuse.

PADD — Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

PADD serves people with developmental disabilities, including, intellectual disabilities, autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy and neurological impairments. A developmental disability is a mental or physical impairment, beginning before the person reaches 22, which is likely to continue indefinitely, limits certain major life activities and reflects a need for special care, treatment or individual planning.

PATBI — Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury

PATBI serves people with a traumatic brain injury (TBI). This includes working to ensure “due process” within the “New York State TBI Waiver” program, and appropriate services to all individuals, including those not participating in the waiver. PATBI provides services to ensure individuals with TBI have access to comprehensive, high quality health care services.

PAVA — Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access

PAVA helps individuals with disabilities have full participation in the electoral process. PAVA educates, trains and assists individuals with participating in the electoral process. These efforts include ensuring physical accessibility of polling places and informing people about the rights of voters with disabilities.

PAAT — Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology

PAAT helps people with disabilities with services related to assistive technology devices or services. This includes investigating and negotiating access to assistive technology devices, as well as outreach efforts. PAAT may also coordinate actions with the New York State Justice Center's Assistive Technology Program (TRAID).

PABSS — Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security

PABSS serves people with disabilities who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplementary Security Income (SSI) and who are trying to return to work, gain employment, or receive certain employment-related training and services. PABSS educates beneficiaries about Social Security's work incentives, and provides vocational rehabilitation and employment services advice. Additionally, PABSS assists beneficiaries to understand their rights regarding representative payees.

PAIR — Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights

PAIR serves individuals with disabilities who do not qualify for the protection and advocacy services described above. It is not limited to people with a specific disability or facing a certain issue.

CAP — Client Assistance Program

CAP assists people with disabilities who have questions or have encountered problems while receiving or applying for vocational rehabilitation (VR) services from state VR agencies.

CAP also advocates for those who receive services from Independent Living Centers (ILCs), Commission for the Blind, and for those applying for or receiving services from Tribal VR offices.