

Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

Description:

The Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (P&A) is an independent state agency that provides information, referrals, advocacy assistance and limited legal services to people with disabilities in the state of Connecticut whose civil rights have been violated or who experience difficulty securing relevant support services. P&A supports the development of community advocacy groups by providing training and technical assistance. It is responsible for investigating abuse and neglect of individuals with mental retardation between the ages of 18 to 59 and deaths of all individuals with mental retardation over age where abuse and/or neglect may have been the cause.

Information and Referral Unit:

The Information and Referral Unit provides the public with information, technical assistance, short-term advocacy assistance, and when appropriate, referrals to other divisions of the agency or to outside organizations.

Client Assistance Program:

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is an independent advocacy program that helps individuals who have concerns about the services they receive from the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS), the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB), independent living centers and/or other community rehabilitation programs. CAP provides consultation, advocacy, assistance and, if necessary, legal representation..

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness:

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) advocates for persons with mental illness who reside in supervised facilities and investigates allegations of abuse and neglect as well as other complaints that are raised by these individuals. PAIMI also advocates for appropriate discharge plans, consumer choice and respectful, relevant supports.

Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology:

Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) is administered by the Case Services Division; it provides consumer education and representation in an effort to expand the availability of assistive technology devices and services for persons with disabilities.

Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury:

Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI) program provides individualized, person-centered advocacy to individuals with a traumatic brain injury.

Abuse Investigation Division

Abuse Investigation staff operate under state law to receive and assess reports of abuse and neglect of adults with mental retardation and monitor the quality and results of internal abuse and neglect investigations conducted by the mental retardation service system. AID directly investigates allegations of abuse and neglect that involve death, or caretakers who are not employed by service providing agencies. When warranted, AID also investigates allegations arising from within the service system. AID staff makes recommendations for protective services, refer cases of substantiated abuse to State's Attorneys, and take immediate steps to ensure that urgent situations receive an adequate response.

Fatality Review Board for Persons with Disabilities (FRB):

The Fatality Review Board is charged with reviewing all deaths of people with mental retardation in Connecticut who are DDS clients and conducting investigations into the circumstances surrounding those deaths, which in the opinion of the Executive Director, warrant a full, independent investigation.

Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security:

Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) assists beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income who need information, advice, advocacy and /or legal services in order to secure, maintain or regain employment.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Information and referral services are provided to any caller.
- Advocacy representation is provided to persons with disabilities who meet agency priorities and mandates.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:

N/A

Contact Information:

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Related Information:

[Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities \(CHRO\), refer to page XIV – 1.](#)