

HOW DO YOU CONNECT WITH THE PATBI PROGRAM?

- Call the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities at:
(860) 297-4300 (Voice)
(860) 297-4380 (TTY)
1-800-842-7303 (V/TTY)
CT only
- Fax the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities at (860) 566-8714.
- E-mail the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities at:
OPA-Information@ct.gov

Looking for information, publications, or an update on legislative issues? Do you want to read the latest in disability news? Do you have a question that you would like to e-mail to the agency? Interested in completing a survey to inform OPA about issues affecting people with disabilities in Connecticut? Is yes, please visit OPA's website at: www.ct.gov/opapd

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Office of Protection and Advocacy
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THE PATBI PROGRAM *PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR PERSONS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY*

The State of Connecticut Office
of Protection and Advocacy for
Persons with Disabilities

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WHAT IS TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY?

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a blow, jolt, or penetrating head injury that disrupts normal brain function. Due to the complexity of the human brain, each traumatic brain injury is different. While some effects of TBI may manifest immediately, others are not always readily apparent. The long term effects of TBI can include cognitive, emotional, sensory, and motor impairments.

According the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA):

- Every 23 seconds one person living in the United States of America will sustain a TBI.
- 5.3 million individuals currently live in the United States with disabilities resulting from TBI.
- 2.4 million new brain injuries occur in the United States each year.

There are many causes of TBI in the United States. Some of the most common according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are:

- Falls (40%)
- Motor Vehicle accidents (14%)
- Struck by/against (i.e., sports related injuries, falling debris, etc.) (15%)
- Assault (10%)

WHAT IS THE PATBI PROGRAM?

PATBI, Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury, is a program at the State of Connecticut Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA). PATBI is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides free advocacy assistance to individuals with TBI.

WHAT DO PATBI ADVOCATES DO?

PATBI advocates provide individualized, person-centered advocacy to individuals with TBI. Some functions of the PATBI advocate include:

Working with, and on behalf of, persons with TBI to obtain and maintain appropriate supports and services within their communities.

- Providing outreach and education to promote the rights of people with TBI
- Seeking to identify the problems in the services delivery system and advocating for systemic brain injury services change.

HOW CAN THE PATBI PROGRAM HELP YOU?

The PATBI program can provide many different services to individuals with TBI, their families, and the community. These services may include:

- Information on the rights of individuals with TBI, and referral to appropriate services.
- Individual advocacy in the form of assistance at meetings or negotiations.
- Advocacy in accessing services for individuals with brain injury through the Department of Social Service's (DSS) Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver program, and other public and private services
- Skills development training in self-advocacy.
- Public information sessions and outreach on the rights of individuals with TBI.
- If appropriate, legal advice and representation.

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