



# Disability Rights Center, Inc.

**Est. 1977**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET**

The Arkansas Protection & Advocacy (P&A) System for People with Disabilities

[www.arkdisabilityrights.org](http://www.arkdisabilityrights.org)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**“To passionately assist the lives of people with disabilities through education, empowerment, and protection of their legal rights.”**

Through leadership of its Governing Board, Advisory Councils and volunteer support, DRC staff provides services to children and adults with disabilities throughout Arkansas. We strive to serve our clients’ expressed wishes.

Disability Rights Center (DRC) is the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system and Client Assistance Program (CAP) for people with disabilities in Arkansas. Each state and

territory has a P&A and CAP responsible for pursuing legal, administrative and other appropriate remedies under federal and state statutes to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities. Investigation of allegations of abuse and neglect of persons with disabilities residing in facilities or in the community is another function. DRC, a nonprofit agency, is independent from state or local government.

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### **DRC PRIORITIES**

- Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation
- Community Services, Voting & Health Care
- Community Integration
- Accessibility
- Fair Housing
- Assistive Technology
- Employment
- Special Education
- Outreach, Training, Information & Policy Advocacy

DRC pursues these priorities within eight federally funded programs. Please let us know if you would like a full list of our annual goals and objectives under these priorities, or if you have any questions about our services.

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## **DRC PROGRAMS AND FUNDING SOURCES**

### ***PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (PADD)***

Individuals must have a developmental disability under the federal definition of developmental disability\* and have a complaint which fits under the present goals and priorities.

\*Federal definition of Developmental Disability: Protection and Advocacy Systems (DRC) uses the federal definition of developmental disability. The term "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that -

- (i) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- (ii) is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
- (iii) is likely to continue indefinitely;
- (iv) results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity - (1) self-care; (2) receptive and expressive language; (3) learning; (4) mobility; (5) self-direction; (6) capacity for independent living; and (7) economic self-sufficiency; and
- (v) reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

Infants and young children--An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described in clauses (i) - (v) of the above if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life. [U.S. Dept. Health & Human Services/Admin on Developmental Disabilities]

### ***CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)***

Clients or client applicants of services and programs funded by the Rehabilitation Act that include AR Rehabilitation Services, the Division of Services for the Blind/DHS, Independent Living Centers, Projects with Industry, community rehab programs and Special Rehab Projects such as Migratory Farm Workers, Supported Employment, Recreation, and Interpreter and Reader Services. [U.S. Dept. of Education/Rehabilitation Services Administration]

### ***PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS (PAIMI)***

DRC advocates for and protects the rights of persons with serious mental illness or severe emotional disturbances in treatment facilities and in the community and persons who are homeless under the PAIMI program. Priority will be given to those residing in facilities and allegations of abuse or neglect.

The PAIMI Advisory Council provides input & recommendations for annual priorities. [U.S. DHHS/Centers for Mental Health Services]

### ***PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS (PAIR)***

DRC provides protection and advocacy for individuals with disabilities who are not eligible for the PADD or PAIMI programs, whose issues go beyond the scope of the CAP program, and who have experienced discrimination due to their disability under the PAIR program. [U.S. Dept. Education/Rehabilitation Services Administration]

### ***PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (PAAT)***

DRC assists individuals with disabilities who have been denied assistive technology devices or assistive technology services and fit into our present goals and priorities. [U.S. Dept. of Education/ Rehabilitation Services Administration]

***PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY (PABSS)***

DRC assists individuals with disabilities who are beneficiaries of Social Security to secure, regain or maintain employment while retaining their Benefits [Social Security Administration]

***PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR VOTING ACCESS FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (HAVA)***

DRC assists individuals with disabilities by providing information and protection and advocacy on accessible polling places, independent and accessible voting, or denial to register and vote. [U.S. Dept. Health & Human Services/Administration on Developmental Disabilities]

***PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (PATBI)***

For individuals who sustained a traumatic brain injury, DRC will provide legal, administrative and other remedies to protect and advocate their rights and give helpful information and referral services. The PATBI Advisory Council assists DRC in public awareness and system change activities. [Health Resources and Services Administration]

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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**WHAT INPUT DO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE IN PLANNING DRC PRIORITIES?**

- Clients, disability groups, agencies, parents, providers, and the general public are invited to comment and give input to the DRC goals and priority planning process each year.
- DRC is required by its funding sources to prioritize its services due to limited resources.
- DRC PAIMI and TBI Advisory Councils provide recommendations for priority development.

**WHERE ARE SERVICES PROVIDED?**

Services are provided as needed throughout Arkansas. Disability Rights Center's office is located at Evergreen Place, Suite 201, 1100 North University in Little Rock. When necessary, advocates will travel to the person requesting DRC services. On Tuesdays, an advocate meets with clients of the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center at HSRC in Hot Springs.

**WHEN IS THE DRC OFFICE OPEN?**

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, except on holidays. DRC can also be reached through voice mail or the internet (web site) anytime.

**WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED?**

- Information and Referral: self-advocacy and information/referral;
- Individual Case Advocacy: counseling/advice, mediation/negotiation, administrative appeals, individual litigation;
- Systemic Advocacy: public policy, media advocacy, litigation, legislative advocacy;
- Training: outreach and education activities;
- Monitoring and Investigation: allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

**HOW ARE SERVICES REQUESTED?**

Request assistance by contacting our office by mail, phone, video phone, tty, fax, e-mail, web site or in

person. Please be prepared to answer questions so we can direct your call to the appropriate staff in our organization. Services are also requested of DRC staff providing monitoring and outreach activities.

**HOW ARE GRIEVANCES WITH OUR SERVICES HANDLED?**

Anyone who feels DRC is not fulfilling its roles and responsibilities as a P&A or CAP has access to a DRC grievance procedure. Should we not accept your case or if you are otherwise unhappy with our services, please let us know. Our grievance procedure is used to help us continually provide the best advocacy services we can. Please let us know if you have a concern with DRC. The grievance procedure is also on our web site.

**IS THERE A CHARGE FOR DRC SERVICES?**

Disability Rights Center’s services are provided free of charge.

**THE DRC BOARD AND ADVISORY COUNCILS:**

The governing 13 member board sets policy and agency direction. Annual areas of emphasis, priorities and goals are determined by the board with recommendations from its PAIMI and TBI Advisory Councils, staff and public input. We are always seeking individuals with disabilities, family members, attorneys, individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, minorities and individuals from different geographic areas of Arkansas to be members of our board and advisory councils. DRC welcomes applications from individuals interested in serving on our board or advisory councils. Please contact us or see our web site for an application.

**COLLABORATION:**

In addition to providing individual services, DRC works in collaboration with other agencies, organizations, and individuals and uses its website, the media, the volunteer Protection and Advocacy Liaison System (PALS), Arkansas Parent Information Exchange (ARPie), and Board and Advisory Councils to promote its mission, goals and priorities.

**HOW DO I CONTACT DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER?**

**1100 N. University, Suite 201, Little Rock, AR 72207**

**(501) 296-1775 v/tty - Fax (501) 296-1779**

**Toll free: (800) 482-1174 v/tty**

**e-mail: [panda@arkdisabilityrights.org](mailto:panda@arkdisabilityrights.org) - [www.arkdisabilityrights.org](http://www.arkdisabilityrights.org)**

The contents of this general information flyer are solely the responsibility of the grantee and do not necessarily represent the official views of the funding agencies. [Listed under each program] Upon request, this brochure is available in other formats such as large print, on disk, or in Spanish. Contact us anytime!

If you have concerns about DRC services, you are welcome to use our grievance procedure by calling us or visiting our website.

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Member, National Disability Rights Network

