

DRC PRIORITIES

Priority I. Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation

Priority II. Community Services & Health Care

Priority III. Accessibility

Priority IV. Fair Housing

Priority V. Assistive Technology

Priority VI. Employment

*Priority VII. Special Education—
Access to a continuum of placement options*

Priority VIII. Outreach, Training, Information, & Policy Advocacy

***Celebrating 30 years
1977-2007***

DRC Priorities are developed annually by the DRC Board of Directors with input from Advisory Councils, staff, the public, clients, consumers and professionals.

Other considerations in developing priorities are the analysis of calls to DRC, service requests, systemic problems, community needs assessment meetings, agency resources and agency mandates.



With more than half a million people with disabilities in Arkansas, DRC strives to fulfill priorities with fewer than 25 people on staff.

Using Common Courtesies Communicating with and about People with Disabilities

See the PERSON

A person with a disability is a **person**, first and foremost, and should be treated with the same dignity, respect and manners that you would give anyone else.

Speak Directly to the Person

Face to face communication is the best way to communicate. Speak to the **person** with the disability instead of their interpreter, personal aide, or family member.

Offer Assistance, and Wait for a Response

Not everyone with a disability wants or needs your help! By asking, you give the **person** a chance to decide whether or not they want or need your help.

Question the Accuracy of Stereotypes

People with disabilities have frequently been portrayed in the media and on the big screen as helpless, homeless or unemployed. People with disabilities are just people.

Follow the Golden Rule

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you! Just treat **people** as you would like to be treated - with dignity and respect, no matter their age, sex, background or disability.

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DRC...
WHAT'S IN IT
FOR ME?

Disability Rights Center

Member, National Disability Rights Network



Disability
Rights
Center

*The Protection & Advocacy (P&A)
system for Arkansans with disabilities.*

501-296-1775 V/TTY
800-482-1174 V/TTY

WHAT IS DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER (DRC)?

The Protection & Advocacy (P&A) system for Arkansans with disabilities.



DRC is the federally authorized and funded nonprofit organization serving as the Protection and Advocacy System (P&A) and the Client Assistance Program (CAP) for individuals with disabilities in Arkansas.

DRC is authorized to advocate for and protect human, civil and legal rights of all Arkansans with disabilities consistent with federal law. DRC services are provided free of charge. (Census 2000 shows over half a million people with disabilities living in Arkansas. This does not include people with disabilities living in institutions).

What does DRC do?

DRC provides:

- Information and Referrals
- Outreach and Education

And, based on current fiscal year priorities:

- Monitoring and Investigations
- Short Term and Technical Assistance
- Mediation/Negotiation
- Systemic Litigation

Where is DRC located and how do I contact DRC?



Disability Rights Center

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

Phone: 501-296-1775 V/TTY
Toll-Free 800-482-1174 V/TTY
Fax: 501-296-1779

Email: panda@arkdisabilityrights.org
www.arkdisabilityrights.org

Who contacts DRC?

- People with any disability, for example, a person with a:
 - mental illness
 - traumatic brain injury
 - hearing impairment or deafness
 - visual impairment or blindness
 - learning disability
 - mental retardation
 - physical disability
 - mobility impairment
 - or anyone perceived as having a disability.
- Parents/Guardians/Family members
- Business Owners
- Policy Makers
- Volunteers
- Disability Service Providers, or
- Anyone who interacts with people with disabilities.



Regardless of the hat you wear, DRC can be your resource for disability information.

Why contact DRC? Examples:

- If a **person with a disability** wants to know their rights in the areas of:
 - Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Ticket to Work/Employment
 - Medicaid
 - Fair Housing Act
 - Help America Vote Act, or
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- If a **parent/guardian/family member** needs information about the rights of people with disabilities in the areas of:
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 - 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, or
 - Guardianship
- If you suspect your child may have a disability due to behavior issues or failing grades. If you suspect abuse and/or neglect of a family member residing in an institution.
- If a **business owner** wants information on making their business accessible to people with disabilities, or wants training in the areas of sensitivity or the ADA.
- If a **policy maker** needs information about disability laws or regulations or wants training in sensitivity or a disability specific issue.
- If a **disability service provider** needs information about disability laws or regulations or wants training on a disability specific issue.
- If you **volunteer** your time, want to do outreach and would like to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.
- If anyone interacting with people who have disabilities needs information about rights and/or responsibilities.