



ADVOCACY CENTER

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (PATBI)

The PATBI Programs provides free legal services and training to people whose legal issues are directly related to their disabilities.

The Advocacy Center (AC) is a statewide non-profit agency providing free legal services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for PATBI services, an individual must

- be a Louisiana resident and;
- have a traumatic brain injury.

SERVICES

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Provide information regarding legal rights and referrals to service providers, support groups and other advocacy agencies.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Provide information on AC and PATBI services. Provide training as needed.

SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

Increase availability of options for community services for people with traumatic brain injuries.

Insure that the Brain Injury Alliance of Louisiana (BIALA) is represented in appropriate advisory boards, provides quality information and referral and provides a voice to policy makers on the needs of persons with TBI.

INDIVIDUAL CASE ADVOCACY

Services may include a review of records to determine the merit of the case, negotiation, and representation at administrative and court proceedings. AC selects cases from the following priority areas:

Abuse/Neglect

- Assist persons in institutions or in the community, who have been subjected to or threatened with physical or sexual abuse.

Accessibility

- Remove physical and programmatic barriers to government and private facilities and services.
- Assist in obtaining access to housing and transportation.

Assistive Technology

- Secure timely evaluation and access to appropriate equipment, devices and services.
- Insure unrestricted use of equipment in various environments such as home, school, recreation, and work.
- Insure customization, repair, maintenance, and replacement of equipment, as needed.

Self-Determination

- Defend against, overturn or limit interdictions or continuing tutorships; challenge inappropriate curators (guardians).
- Assist clients with Social Security and SSI representative payee issues.

Public Benefits

- Appeal Medicaid and Medicare denials of eligibility and/or payment for services.

Rights Protection

- Provide information about rights and assist people residing in institutions (such as a group home or nursing home) to secure rights such as privacy, access to records, informed consent, recreation, visitors, defense of involuntary discharge or transfer.

Special Education

- Advocate for appropriate transitional planning services.
- Secure appropriate educational services.

For Assistance: Call: TOLL-FREE 1-800-960-7705 (Voice) 1-866-935-7348 (TTY)

To request services in Vietnamese, call 1-800-960-7705, extension 153. Để đòi hỏi những công tác (dịch vụ) bằng tiếng Việt, xin gọi 1-800-960-7705, mở rộng 153.

For information in Spanish, please call 1-800-960-7705, ext. 152. Para información en español por favor llame 1-800-960-7705, ext.152.

Write: 1010 Common Street, Suite 2600, New Orleans, LA 70112

Visit our website: www.advocacyla.org

AC has offices in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Shreveport

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