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ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM
February 17, 2014

The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is part of the nationwide federally funded protection and advocacy (P&A) system. ADAP's mission is to provide legal advocacy services to Alabamians with disabilities to protect, promote and expand their rights.

Find Us On The Web
www.adap.net

Alabama Recovery Conference April 7-9, 2014 Shocco Springs Conference Center

The Annual Alabama Recovery Conference has become one of the highlights of the year for many consumers in Alabama. Over 800 attendees from around the state gather for three days of education and fellowship. The conference features nationally known speakers and a number of workshops on consumer issues and interests. Social activities include a talent show and dance. Most of the attendees are consumers, and the conference often includes consumers from other states and international attendees.

The Alabama Recovery Conference is planned and coordinated by consumers and is a project of the Office of Consumer Relations of the Mental Illness Division and Substance Abuse Services of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the Alabama Directions Council. The Office of Consumer Relations, which is staffed by consumers, coordinates the conference with the assistance of the Alabama Directions Council. The Directions Council is made up of local support group leaders, drop-in center leaders, and statewide consumer organizations and is made up entirely of consumers.

ADAP will make a presentation on our Return to Work Program.

How to Register: <http://www.adap/2014recoverybrochure.pdf>

Contact Information: The Office of Consumer Relations, Toll Free: 1-800-832-0952, Montgomery Area 334-242-3456, Fax 334-242-3025 or Email: michael.autrey@mh.alabama.gov

ADAP Opening in Selma: Free Legal Services to Protect Persons with Disabilities



The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) will open an office in the Selma branch of Legal Services of Alabama on February 25, 2014. ADAP attorney Jenny Ryan will be on site from 9 AM until noon on the 2nd Tuesday of every month and from noon until 4 PM on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the office, located at 801 Alabama Avenue in Selma.

“ADAP addresses a broad range of disability-related legal matters,” said Ms. Ryan. “We can help people with things like special education problems, guardianship alternatives, eliminating barriers to working for people receiving SSI, Medicaid denials, and access problems under the Americans with Disabilities Act.”

“We’re excited about collaborating with Legal Services Alabama to provide help to Alabamians with disabilities in Dallas County and the surrounding area.”

All ADAP services are free. Appointments are not necessary but anyone wishing to speak with ADAP at a time other than those listed should call the agency’s main office in Tuscaloosa at (800) 826-1675.

2014 Social Security Changes Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2012 through the third quarter of 2013, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries received a 1.5 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2014. The SSI Federal Benefit Rate for 2014 is \$721.00 per month for an individual and \$1,082.00 per month for a couple. Information regarding other important 2014 Social Security changes can be found on the Social Security website at: <http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/factsheets/colafacts2014.html>

Notice of Changes to the Acceptable Forms of Identification to Allow Individuals to Exercise their Right to Vote



In 2011, the Alabama Legislature passed sweeping new legislation which dramatically limited the forms of acceptable identification to permit someone to vote. Prior to the changes, approximately 26 different forms of identification were considered acceptable. All this changed with the passage of the new law, which is set to take effect for the first time in this year’s upcoming elections. Unless you have a form of identification on the new, more restrictive list, you will be denied your right to exercise your vote. The new law restricts the poll workers to “vouch and verify” for a person. ADAP is committed to ensure that every individual who wishes to exercise their right to vote will be able to

do so.

Under the new law which will go into effect for the first time in the Alabama Primary on June 3, 2014, you must have one of the following forms of identification, or you will be turned away from the polls:

- A. A valid (non-expired) Alabama Driver's License;
- B. A valid (non-expired) Non-Driver's ID card issued by Alabama or another state;
- C. A valid (non-expired) Alabama Voter ID card;
- D. A valid (non-expired) Identification card issued by Alabama, the United States, or any other state which contains a photograph of the voter;
- E. A valid (non-expired) United States Passport;
- F. A valid (non-expired) employee Identification Card issued by Alabama or any governmental agency within Alabama, or the United States, containing a photograph of the voter. Note, this does NOT include an employee identification issued from someplace outside Alabama;
- G. A valid (non-expired) student or employee Identification card issued by a college, university, technical or professional school, located within the state of Alabama, containing a photograph of the voter. Note, this does NOT include a high school Identification card;
- H. A valid (non-expired) United State Military Identification card if it includes a photograph of the voter;
- I. A valid (non-expired) tribal Identification Card if it includes a photograph of the voter.

Absent having one of these forms of identification, you may only cast a regular ballot if two poll workers are willing to swear and sign a form stating that a given voter is eligible to vote.

The Alabama Voter Identification Card is a new form of identification created by the statute. This is free of charge. It is issued by the local election office in the county in which you reside; at the Secretary of State's Office in Montgomery; or at "local mobile sites". To date, there has been no announcement on how, when, and where these sites will exist. To receive such a Card, you must possess at the time of acquiring the card a "photo identification" document, as well as the same or separate document showing your date of birth will be accepted. Or, a non-photo identification document that itself contains your date of birth. Please remember, many of these forms of identification have an expiration date, and must be periodically renewed.

There may be some time between applying for an appropriate form of identification, and the date you receive it. Therefore, it is imperative that you apply for it as early as possible. ADAP encourages all to exercise your right to vote. We will see you all at the polls on June 3, 2014.



HAVE PRESENTATION. WILL TRAVEL

Are you a member of a group that needs a speaker for an upcoming meeting? If so, ADAP can fill this need. ADAP staff provides education/training sessions on a wide variety of disability-related topics including, but not limited to: the Americans with Disabilities Act, Medicaid waivers, guardianships, special education, general disability rights, and transition services for youth who will soon become adults. We will also speak on specifically requested, disability-related topics. If you are interested in making arrangements for ADAP to come speak at one of your meetings, please contact Anita Davidson, one of ADAP's Legal Assistants, by calling 205-348-5107, or emailing her, akdavidson@adap.ua.edu



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