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ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
May 20, 2015

The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is part of the nation's federally-funded protection and advocacy (P&A) system. ADAP provides legal services to Alabamians with disabilities to protect, promote and expand their rights. ADAP's vision is one of a society in which persons with disabilities are valued and exercise self-determination through meaningful choices, and have equality of opportunity. ADAP is part of the [National Disability Rights Network \(NDRN\)](#).

Find us on the Web  
[www.adap.net](http://www.adap.net)

## Do you *really* want your child to get his Diploma this year?

A strange question, eh? After all, earning a diploma is a great step in a young person's life. [Read](#) why it's not such a strange question for older students who haven't turned 21 and who have significant learning, life skill, or job training needs. Time is running short; graduation is approaching!

# Special Education Due Process Rule Change: Where does it stand?

Until recently, the Alabama State Department of Education was considering very troublesome changes to its special education due process hearing rules. [Read](#) more about the controversy and where things stand.

## The ADA: Looking Good at 25!

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) turns twenty-five on July 26, 2015. As part of the nationwide anniversary celebrating this great civil rights achievement, the ADA Legacy Tour Bus rolled into Alabama this week to make stops in Birmingham and Montgomery. Click [here](#) to see photographs of the celebration hosted by [Disability Rights and Resources](#) in Birmingham. For more information on the ADA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, check out the [ADA Legacy Project](#). If you want to view all the photos for this event, click [here](#).

## ADAP is Recruiting Members for its Advisory Councils

Are you committed to supporting the legal rights of persons with developmental disabilities or persons with mental illness? Do you support the self-determination, independence, productivity, and full inclusion of people with disabilities in all facets of community life.

If so, apply to be a member of one of ADAP's advisory councils. As required by federal law, ADAP has advisory councils for its Protection and Advocacy Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) and its Protection and Advocacy Program for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI). Members serve a two-year term. Each council meets at least three times per year. Members are reimbursed for meeting travel expenses.

We especially encourage individuals with developmental disabilities or mental illness – or their family members – to apply to be council members. More information about the councils and the application form can be found on our [website](#). To be considered, we must receive your application by June 30, 2015. For more information or for help with filling out an application, contact [ADAP](#).

## Alabama's DD Council wants your input

The [Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities](#) is seeking input on pressing concerns for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. This information will be used to help the Council determine goals for the new long-range State Plan which will start on October 1, 2016. Please take a few minutes to complete this short but important [survey](#).



## Special Education in Alabama: A Right Not a Favor



ADAP is pleased to announce the publication of the newest edition of its popular special education parent manual – “Special Education in Alabama: A Right Not a Favor” (RNF).

RNF helps families and child advocates understand how to access special education services and ensure that eligible children with disabilities are provided the free, appropriate public education to which they are entitled. The manual is written in lay-friendly terms and is filled with helpful advocacy tips and resources.

Publication of RNF was underwritten by a generous grant from the [Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities](#).

The first edition of RNF was published in the mid-80’s. Since its last revision and printing in 2007, 50,000 free copies have been distributed across the state.

To view the manual on-line, click [here](#). To order copies, click [here](#).



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