

ADAP seeks to protect individuals with disabilities from:



- Inappropriate medical or mental health treatment
- Financial exploitation
- Physical or sexual assault
- Inappropriate or excessive medication
- Retaliation or verbal abuse by facility staff
- Inappropriate chemical or physical restraint or seclusion
- Inappropriate admission to residential or inpatient care facility
- Neglect of personal care (hygiene, clothing, food, shelter)
- Inadequate discharge planning
- Other rights violations

ADAP monitors and investigates alleged incidents of abuse and neglect in a variety of public and private facilities that provide care or treatment to persons with disabilities. These residential and non-residential settings include general and psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, board and care homes, training schools, community housing, juvenile detention facilities, homeless shelters, schools, jails and prisons.



Monitoring

ADAP monitors in facilities to:

- Provide our clients information on programs addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities,
- Provide our clients information about individual rights and ADAP's advocacy services,
- Ensure our clients rights and safety.

When monitoring, ADAP staff may visit -- unaccompanied by facility staff -- all areas of a facility which are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

When monitoring, ADAP staff may communicate privately with individuals, including those who have guardians or conservators or who may eventually be found not to meet the P&A client eligibility criteria.

Investigations

When investigating allegations of abuse or neglect, ADAP is allowed reasonable, unaccompanied access to all areas of a facility.

During an investigation, ADAP staff may speak with any individual or facility staff member who may have knowledge of the incident under investigation.

With the consent of the individual or his guardian, ADAP may access an individual's treatment records. Even without such consent, under certain circumstances, ADAP has a right to such records. ADAP is obligated to maintain the confidentiality of any records released to it in the same manner as the provider of the records.

Annually, ADAP investigates hundreds of alleged incidents of abuse, neglect and rights violations.

ADAP's Advocacy Services

Housed at the University of Alabama, ADAP provides information and referral services, public education programs, and individual case advocacy services throughout the state.

Information and Referral

Anyone may call ADAP for technical assistance and referral information relating to disability issues.

Education and Training

Any individual or group may request training in the area of disability rights. Requests are considered based on ADAP's annual priorities and its limited resources for the provision of education/training.

Individual Case Advocacy

ADAP provides individual case advocacy services to eligible persons. To inquire about eligibility for ADAP's individual case advocacy services, contact the agency.

Questions?

If you have questions about ADAP's advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities or about the agency's access rights, please contact ADAP at 1-800-826-1675.



About ADAP and the P&A System

The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is part of our nation's protection and advocacy (P&A) system for persons with disabilities.

In 1975, Congress created the P&A system to ensure the safety and well-being of persons with disabilities living in state mental health and mental retardation facilities. Federal law gave the P&A system broad access rights to such facilities, their residents, and their staff.

Over the last twenty years, Congress expanded the mission of the P&A system. Now, through many different federally funded programs, P&As address a broad range of legal rights on behalf of persons with disabilities, whether those persons live in institutions or in community settings. Some of the legal issues addressed by P&As include special education, employment preparation, healthcare access, architectural and programming accessibility, and voting.

Despite its expanded mission, the P&A system remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of persons with disabilities who receive services in institutional and community settings. P&As carry out this mission by conducting facility monitoring and by investigating reported incidents of abuse and neglect of persons with disabilities.



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Access

to Protect and Advocate

