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ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM November 1, 2014

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 <u>National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)</u>.

Find us on the Web www.adap.net

Help Voters with Disabilities by Completing an Election Day Survey

Over the past several years, volunteers and ADAP staff have surveyed numerous polling sites throughout Alabama. These surveys revealed that a vast majority of polling places that were surveyed are accessible to persons with disabilities, having accessible parking, an accessible entrance, etc.

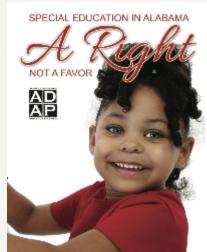
Due to Alabama law restricting who can enter a polling place on Election Day, some surveys were conducted prior to Election Day. While these surveys could help determine whether a polling place is accessible, surveying a polling site before Election Day cannot show if the voting process itself is accessible to voters with disabilities. Under federal law, persons with disabilities are entitled to have an accessible voting process. One way to make the voting process accessible is to provide an accessible voting machine. Alabama has chosen to use the Automark as its accessible voting machine.

On Election Day, the Automark should be turned on and ready to use. Any voter, including voters without disabilities, can use the Automark. ADAP would like to know whether Automarks are available and ready to use at polling sites throughout Alabama and we need your help. Prior to Election Day, please print ADAP's *Polling Place Accessible Voting Machine Survey*. When you go vote, please use the Automark, complete the survey and return the completed survey to ADAP.

With your help, we can ensure every Alabamian can access to voting process!



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.

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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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