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ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
February 19, 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)

## Access to Razors by Alabama Prisoners With Mental Illness Limited

*ADAP and SPLC file for preliminary injunction against the Alabama Department of Corrections*



Alabama prison inmates with serious mental illness, including those housed in suicide-watch observation rooms, will no longer have unfettered access to razors as a result of an agreement reached between ADAP and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and the Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC). The agreement was reached after ADAP and SPLC filed a motion for a preliminary injunction requesting the U.S.

District Court in Montgomery prohibit ADOC from allowing easy access to razors for these prisoners. [Read more.](#)

# Justice Dept. Files Statement of Interest in Service Animal Litigation



The Department of Justice has filed a **Statement of Interest** in *Alboniga v. School Board of Broward County, Florida*, No. 14-60085 (S. D. Fla.), to clarify that the Department's Title II ADA regulation generally requires public entities, such as schools, to permit individuals with disabilities to use their service animals, subject to specific exceptions. This regulatory framework furthers Congress's intent to honor an individual's choice to be accompanied by a service animal wherever feasible and to respect the individual's autonomy and self-determination. To find out more about the ADA and services animals, click [here](#) or visit the Justice Department's [website](#).

## Old Bryce Hospital Property Integrated into UA's Master Plan



With the goal of preserving as much of the historic building as possible, the University of Alabama is moving forward with renovations to the main building on the old Bryce Hospital property. The building will house the University's welcome center and museums dedicated to

both University history and the history of mental health. To read more about how the University is integrating the old Bryce property into its master plan, click [here](#).

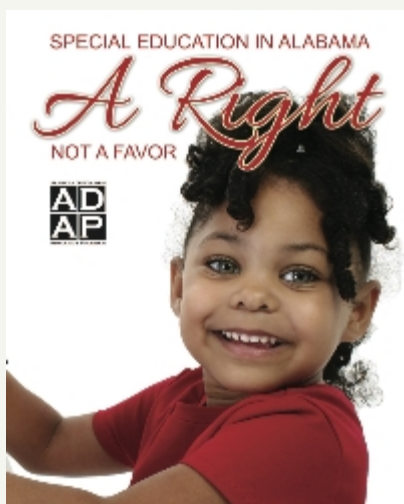
## SSI Beneficiaries Receive Cost of Living Adjustment



Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries received a 1.7% cost of living adjustment effective January 2015. The SSI Federal Benefit rate increased from \$721 per month to \$733 per month for an individual and \$1,082 per to month to \$1,100 per month for a couple. Additional information about 2015 Social Security changes can be found [here](#).



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



ADAP's special education parent manual – “Special Education in Alabama: A Right Not a Favor” (RNF) is available to you.

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](#).

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



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