

# Overview of Disability Rights' California's Services

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Contact our intake line at: 1-800-  
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[https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/  
g/contact-us/how-to-get-help](https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/contact-us/how-to-get-help)



# What is a Protection & Advocacy Agency?

- P&As work to **improve the lives of people with disabilities** by guarding against abuse; advocating for basic rights; and ensuring access and accountability in health care, education, employment, housing, transportation, voting, and within the juvenile and criminal justice systems.
- P&As are the **only legally based advocacy organization** established by Congress to protect the rights of all individuals with disabilities. As part of that mandate, our network includes **agencies in every state** and U.S. territory, working to provide legal protection and advocacy services for people with disabilities.

# Our Mission & Vision

- DRC **advocates, educates, investigates, and litigates** to advance the rights, dignity, equal opportunities, and choices for all people with disabilities.
- We envision a **barrier-free, inclusive, diverse** world that values each individual and their voice. In this world, all people with disabilities enjoy the power of equal rights and opportunities; freedom from abuse, neglect, and discrimination; dignity; and respect for their choices based on their own goals and values.

# Eligibility for Our Services

- We provide free legal services to **people with disabilities** seeking eligibility for or navigating challenges in various systems, including special education, Regional Center, and the Department of Rehabilitation.
- Our goal is to serve people with disabilities **from racial and ethnic diverse communities**. To make sure our services are accessible to people who do not speak English or are Deaf, we hire staff who speak other languages, provide interpreters and translate our self-advocacy materials into other languages, formats and American Sign Language.

# Our Practice Groups

**Our Legal Advocacy Unit has seven practice groups, which provide free legal services and trainings to individuals with disabilities:**

1. Civil Rights
2. Healthcare/Home & Community-Based Services
3. Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities
4. Mental Health
5. Pathways to Work
6. Voting Rights
7. Youth

# Youth Practice Group

**The YPG provides free legal services to students with disabilities, including:**

- Trainings and Counsel & Advice for parents and students to empower them to self-advocate
- Demand letters to assist with obtaining appropriate assessments, correcting inaccurate disciplinary records, and more
- Representation in IEP and 504 meetings
- Representation in expulsion hearings and manifestation determination reviews
- Representation in due process hearings, and complaints to the California Department of Education and U.S. Department of Education

# Client Assistance Program (CAP)

- CAP helps people get services from the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). Examples of DOR services are training, school, and a job.
- CAP provides information; advice and advocacy to help people with disabilities get rehabilitation services from the DOR, such as training, education and a job.
- CAP advocates help protect the rights of people who receive or need services from Independent Living Centers, or other Rehabilitation Act Funded partners.
- People can obtain assistance from CAP at any point from the time they apply for services to after receipt of services.

# Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA)

- Providing free legal information, advice and representation to regional center clients. We provide the clients' rights advocate for each regional center.
- OCRA provides assistance to Regional Center consumers, including:
  - Representation at IPP and/or IEP meetings
  - Assistance with navigating IHSS, SSI, and other systems
- List of OCRA staff for each Regional Center:  
<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/what-we-do/programs/office-of-clients-rights-advocacy-ocra/ocra-staff-links>



## **Info about Legal Advocacy Unit**

<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/what-we-do/programs/legal-advocacy-unit-lau>

## **Info about OCRA**

<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/what-we-do/programs/office-of-clients-rights-advocacy-ocra>

## **Info about CAP**

<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/what-we-do/programs/client-assistance-program-cap>

## **Special Education Rights & Responsibilities Manual**

<https://serr.disabilityrightsca.org/>

## **Rights Under the Lanterman Act Manual**

<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/publications/rula-rights-under-the-lanterman-act-complete-manual>

## **COVID-19 Resource Page**

<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/post/announcement-coronavirus-and-how-disability-rights-california-can-help-you>

# Resources