



**New York State's  
Protection & Advocacy System and  
Client Assistance Program**

# Introduction

## **Disability Rights New York is the statewide Protection and Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program**

DRNY advocates for Veterans and other New Yorkers with disabilities to enable them to:

- Exercise their own life choices;
- Fully participate in their communities; and
- Enforce their civil and legal rights.

# Our History



**The P&A system was created in the 1970's, as a result of an exposé on the deplorable conditions in the Willowbrook State School, an institution for individuals with developmental disabilities on Staten Island.**

# Creation of P&A System

Original purpose to protect people with developmental disabilities living in institutions from abuse and neglect

The P&A's mandate now covers:

- All people with disabilities
- A broad range of issues
- All settings that assist people with disabilities

# The P&A System

- P&A agencies exist in every state and territory (57 total).
- Largest provider of legal advocacy for individuals with disabilities in the country.
- Cross-disability.

# **P&A Access Authority**

Federal law provides P&A's with broad access to monitor and investigate abuse and neglect, including:

- Visit facility sites;
- Interview facility residents;
- Review individual records;
- Review records of investigations by other agencies.

# **The Role of P&A and CAP**

- Protect and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities;
- Have access to people with disabilities;
- Have access to the records of people with disabilities to facilitate investigations;
- Investigate incidents of abuse and neglect.

# **The Role of the P&A and CAP**

- Provide information and referral;
- Pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies and approaches
- Have authority to educate policy makers
- Coordinate with other advocacy agencies



# DRNY's Offices

DRNY has three locations in New York State

**725 Broadway,  
Suite 450  
Albany, New York  
12207**

**25 Chapel Street,  
Suite 1005  
Brooklyn, New York  
11201**

**44 Exchange Blvd,  
Suite 110  
Rochester, New  
York 14614**

# What DRNY Does

- Direct legal representation;
- Technical assistance;
- Systemic advocacy;
- Education;
- Outreach;
- Information & Referrals.

# **P&A Programs and CAP**

- Individuals with developmental disabilities (PADD)
- Individuals with mental illness (PAIMI)
- Individual rights (PAIR)
- Individuals with traumatic brain injuries (PATBI)
- Voting access (PAVA)
- Assistive technology (PAAT)
- Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)
- Client Assistance Program (CAP)
- Representative Payee (PARP)

# What We Don't Do

DRNY does not provide:

- Criminal defense representation;
- Representation in family court matters (Ex.: Divorce and child custody);
- Non-legal services (Ex.: service coordination and job placement).

If you are looking for these services, DRNY staff can refer you to other organizations or attorneys who may be able to help

# If You Need Our Assistance

Contact our intake staff by phone or email

- Intake staff is available to take your call M-F 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- You can leave a message, send an email, or submit an intake form direct on our website anytime.

<https://www.drny.org/page/contact-us-4.html>

The services we provide are free of charge and DRNY keeps all information confidential.

Disclaimer: Contacting DRNY does not guarantee legal assistance or create an attorney-client relationship. DRNY provides legal assistance on a case-by-case basis and will limit its scope of representation as necessary. If DRNY offers advocacy services, the scope of services are explained through a retainer agreement or by other means.

# **DRNY or Another Agency?**

- 1) Veteran with PTSD asked landlord for apartment transfer to a quieter unit but landlord refuses
- 2) Veteran went into a nursing home for rehab and reports he feels “stuck” there after a year
- 3) Veteran with depression asked employer for flexible start time while adjusting medications, employer said not possible
- 4) Veteran denied public benefit, unrelated to her disability, and want to appeal
- 5) Complaints from veterans about conditions at a psychiatric hospital

## **Q&A AND DISCUSSION**

**What can we do to increase the number of veterans our agency serves?**

# Contact Information

Phone (518) 432-7861

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