

Disability Rights South Dakota

Protection and Advocacy System for South Dakota

"Disability Rights South Dakota is the non-profit legal services agency dedicated to protecting and advocating for rights and inclusion of South Dakotans with disabilities."

Who We Are

- Disability Rights South Dakota (DRSD) is appointed by the governor as the federally mandated Protection & Advocacy (P&A) system for South Dakota. DRSD, formerly South Dakota Advocacy Services, was established in 1977.
- DRSD is a private, non-profit agency that is funded by 9 federal programs:
 - Protection and Advocacy for individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD)
 - Client Assistance Program (CAP)
 - Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI)
 - Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR)
 - Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)
 - Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)
 - Protection and Advocacy for individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)
 - Protection and Advocacy for Voting Accessibility (PAVA)
 - Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries with Representative Payees (PABRP – New Program)



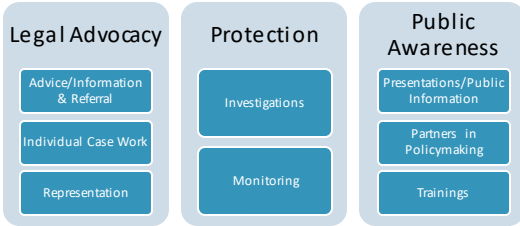
Who We Serve

DRSD eligibility criteria:

- Individual with a disability must have a disability-rights issue, such as abuse, neglect, or rights violations. For most programs, this means the issue/problem MUST arise from the individual's disability.
- The individual must meet eligibility under the qualifying federal program.
- The need must fall within the fiscal year's priorities/area of focus.
- Must be a South Dakota resident.



What We Do



Advice/Information & Referral

Disability Rights South Dakota provides legal advice to those who contact us with disability-related concerns, laws and rights.

This may include:

- Clarification on laws and regulations.
- Information on individual rights.
- Referral and information for other community resources.



Individual Case Work

Disability Rights South Dakota employs both attorneys and non-attorney advocates.

We believe in working from the lowest level of advocacy first before escalating to more intensive means of legal advocacy. Because of this, the bulk of our individual case work focuses on administrative remedies, where a majority of our cases are resolved.



Public Education, Presentations, and Training

DRSD provides presentations on a variety of disability-related topics to professionals, individuals with disabilities and community partners.

DRSD provides also public education in the form of annual public listening sessions, publications and community events, including:

- Brochures (Rights information, general agency information)
- Books and Publications (What Parents Should Know About Special Education)
- Catch the Wave
- Lighting the Way
- Collaborations with other agencies (Transition Liaison Service Program, Parent Connection)
- Sponsored videos (How Reasonable Accommodations Work in Employment, What are Mental Health Condition Stigmas, What is Exclusion and Restraint in Special Education)



Trainings

DRSD provides a variety of trainings to professionals and individuals with disabilities. Some of our available trainings are:

Becoming an effective self-advocate	Rights of individuals under guardianship	Alternatives to guardianship	Disability Etiquette	Transition and Special Education	Exclusion, Seclusion, and Restraint	Voting Rights
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What We Don't Do

Including, but not limited to,

- Family Law (Divorce, Custody, Adoption)
- Estate Planning (Wills and Trusts)
- Criminal Representation
- Social Security Eligibility
- Initiation of Guardianship or Conservatorship
- Malpractice
- Bankruptcy

Contact Us!

Disability Rights
South Dakota

New Client Intake

1-800-658-4782

or 605-224-8294

Online at

www.drSDLaw.org

Pierre Office

2520 E. Franklin St.

Rapid City Office

1575 N. LaCrosse St. Ste. K

Sioux Falls Office

2121 W. 63rd Place Ste. 30
