

WHO ARE WE?

Established in 1977 as the protection and advocacy system for the state of South Carolina, P&A is authorized by state and federal law to protect the rights of people with disabilities in South Carolina. Funded by federal grants, a state budget appropriation and private contributions, P&A is a private, non-profit South Carolina corporation governed by a volunteer board of directors. As required by federal law, P&A is independent of all agencies which provide treatment or other services to people with disabilities.

MISSION

P&A's mission is to protect the legal, civil, and human rights of people with disabilities in South Carolina by:

- *Enabling individuals to advocate for themselves.*
- *Speaking on their behalf when they have been discriminated against or denied a service to which they are entitled.*
- *Promoting policies and services which respect their choices.*

P&A Does Not Charge for its Services

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WE SERVE?

A person with a disability who believes that he or she has been discriminated against because of the disability or denied a service because of a disability may contact us. See back of brochure for contact information.

Our services are provided statewide and are NOT limited by age, race, sex, type of disability, income, residency, or religion.

"P&A is a lifeline for anyone dealing with the maze of state and federal agencies!"

"Thank you for listening and helping our family."

"For the first time in many years I felt like someone cared about how I felt."

"...accurate information and helpful advice..."

"...literally a lifesaver..."

-P&A Clients

WHAT SERVICES DO WE OFFER?

Information and Referral

P&A advocates provide brief oral or written information about callers' problems and suggest ways to resolve the problems, including information about additional resources. When appropriate, callers are referred to one of our issue teams for individual representation.

Case Representation

Issue teams provide individual representation using priorities that are set each year. For information about our priorities and issue teams, please visit our website at www.protectionandadvocacy-sc.org

Systems Advocacy

P&A staff also work to improve laws, regulations, policies or practices to prevent abuse or neglect of individuals with disabilities and to enable individuals with disabilities to gain greater independence and full inclusion in the community and the workplace.

Self-Advocacy Training, Education and Outreach

P&A staff work with disability communities to provide self-advocacy training, education and outreach. Advocates make presentations, meet with community leaders and conduct consumer focus groups.

How Do You CONTACT P&A?

Call toll-free statewide:

866-275-7273 (Voice)

866-232-4525 (TTY)

in Columbia area:

803-782-0639 (Voice & TTY)

or

Visit our website at:

www.protectionandadvocacy-sc.org

or

Send us e-mail at:

info@protectionandadvocacy-sc.org

or

Write us at:

3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 208

Columbia, S.C. 29204

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Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.
3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 208
Columbia SC 29204

PROTECTION AND
ADVOCACY FOR
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES, INC.

P&A



**Advancing
Disability Rights In
South Carolina
Since 1977**