

Disability Rights Ohio 101

Advocacy for Kids
with Disabilities



**Disability
Rights** OHIO

We have the
legal right of way.

Presenters



- Melissa Day, Advocate
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- Kristin Hildebrant, Senior Attorney
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Who we are



- Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) is a non-profit corporation
- Ohio's designated Protection and Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program
- To advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of people with disabilities in Ohio

Contact information



- Disability Rights Ohio
- 200 Civic Center Drive, Suite 300
- Columbus, Ohio 43215
- 614-466-7264
- 800-282-9181
- Disabilityrightsohio.org

Our staff



- Intake specialists receive calls and provide information & referral
- Attorneys and advocates provide advocacy services to people with disabilities
- Policy and communications staff educate Ohioans and policy makers about the agency and disability rights

How we advocate



- Client directed
- Confidential
- Individual and systemic advocacy

Eligibility for our services



- People with disabilities
- No income requirement
- Clients are not charged for services

Services provided



- Information and referral
- Self Advocacy Assistance
- Limited Representation such as negotiation
- Legal Advocacy services including administrative actions and court litigation

Special education team



- The special education team provides advocacy to children with disabilities from birth through age 22
- The team advocates for children aged 0-3 who receive services through Ohio's early intervention program

Special education team



- We provide various levels of assistance to students who are eligible for services under IDEA part B.
- Services range from information to attendance at IEP meetings and negotiation and representation in hearings and court on priority issues

Special education team



- Current priority issues include:
 - School to prison pipeline issues
 - Restraint and Seclusion
 - Transition
 - Significant denials of education
 - Disciplinary cases

Special education team



- Our Fellow program provides help with IEP meetings for families regardless of issue. The program covers the following counties:
 - Delaware
 - Fairfield
 - Franklin
 - Licking
 - Madison
 - Pickaway
 - Union

Special education team



- Systemic work is being done to improve education services in Ohio
- We are working with the department of education on implementation of a settlement seeking to improve literacy, LRE, transition, school climate etc. in Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Lima, East Cleveland, Toledo, Youngstown and Zanesville

Special education team



- Self Advocacy Materials are available on our website:

FAQs

Sample letters

Negotiation Skills for Parents

Client Assistance Program



- CAP Advocates for and protects the rights of individuals with disabilities who are applying for or receiving vocational rehabilitation (VR) services from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)
- The CAP also assists people who are applying for or receiving federally funded services from Independent Living Centers throughout Ohio

Client Assistance Program



- We advocate for students who want services through OOD. We can
 - Provide information about VR services
 - Advocate if you:
 - Have been turned down for VR services
 - Have concerns about your rehabilitation counselor
 - Are not satisfied with the VR services you are receiving
 - Do not agree with a decision to close your case
 - Have other problems with VR services

Client Assistance Program



- We can advocate for students who experience discrimination in employment
 - CAP can:
 - Provide information on your rights under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Give you information about how to make a reasonable accommodation request
 - Provide information about where you can file a complaint

Client Assistance Program



- We can advocate for young adults who receive services from an independent living center.
 - Independent living services include:
 - Information and referral services
 - Independent living skills training
 - Peer counseling
 - Individual and systems advocacy
 - Services that help you move from an institution to a home in your community
 - Services that help you remain in your home so that you do not need to move to an institution
 - Services that help you transition from school to postsecondary life

Client Assistance Program



- We can help transition age youth 14 – 24
 - assist "students with disabilities" with transition planning who are eligible for OOD services
 - to ensure that students receive necessary transition services and support from OOD before graduation.
 - Pre-Employment Transition Services
 - assist "youth with disabilities" with transition planning to receive help from community partners such as OOD under Title IV of WIOA and OhioMeansJobs under Title I of WIOA

Client Assistance Program



- We can help students access postsecondary training
 - Assist students transition from high school to postsecondary training by
 - Ensuring they receive services from OOD that support their employment goal in accordance with their IEP/504 and IPE
 - Taking steps to address discrimination in postsecondary education and ensuring that needed accommodations are provided

Client Assistance Program



- We can help young adults who have already graduated
 - Get information about and referral to OOD
 - Assist them with receiving VR services to help prepare, obtain, or maintain competitive integrated employment
 - that are consistent with the individual's unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, career interests, and informed choice

Other DRO Teams



- Community Integration
 - Protecting the rights of people where they live (e.g., access to medically necessary services, Medicaid waivers, assistive technology; community access)
- Medicaid Pro Bono Program
 - Connecting people with volunteer attorneys and paralegals who provide free representation in certain Medicaid appeal cases
- Abuse and Neglect / Victims of Crime
 - Protecting the right of people to be free from physical and emotional harm by providers and others
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) and Representative Payee
- Policy
 - Building coalitions, partnerships and policy expertise

Resource Center



- The Resource Center provides information to support individuals in learning more about disability rights and available resources to advance their self-advocacy efforts.
- The DRO website contains numerous resources organized by disability topic.
- <http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/resource-center>

Social Media



- Like us on Facebook,
www.facebook.com/DisabilityRightsOhio
- Follow us on Twitter @DisabilityRtsOH
- Join our email list:
<http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/newsletter>

Questions?

