

## what do we help with?

Depending on annual priorities set by the Board of Directors, Disability Rights Montana may provide assistance with the following issues:

### care & treatment

The right to receive care and treatment in the most integrated setting appropriate, free from abuse and neglect, with due process, informed consent, confidentiality, and privacy.

### programs & services

The right to accessible programs and services. The right to freedom from discrimination. This includes exercising the right to vote and other civil rights, as well as obtaining and maintaining services for which one is legally qualified, such as Assistive Technology, Medicaid, SSI/SSDI, transportation, and public access.

### employment

The right to employment without discrimination. Employers may not discriminate against qualified people with disabilities who are applying for jobs or advancements, and must make reasonable accommodations for workers with disabilities.

### education

The right to individualized educational programs and related services, and integration into regular classrooms.

### funding statement

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## how to request help?

To get help from Disability Rights Montana, call and talk with one of our advocates. You can also fill out a Request for Service form on our website. Our office is open **8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday**. If an advocate is unavailable when you contact Disability Rights Montana, your call will be returned no later than the following business day.



disability **rights**  
montana

Disability Rights Montana envisions a society where people with disabilities have **equality of opportunity** and are able to **participate fully in community life** by exercising choice and self-determination.

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## who are we?

Disability Rights Montana, established in 1977, is a civil rights organization protecting the human, civil and legal rights of Montanans with disabilities through legally-based advocacy. Each state and territory is mandated by law to have a designated independent Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system for people with disabilities. **Disability Rights Montana is Montana's protection and advocacy system.**

## who do we help?

Congress recognizes that people with disabilities need advocacy and legal representation. Disability Rights Montana has the legal authority to serve most **any person with a disability** when the issue they need assistance with is directly related to their disability. We represent children and adults with a wide range of disabilities—including, but not limited to those with cognitive, mental, sensory and physical disabilities. Today, more than 51 million Americans live with a disability; more than 150,000 or 17 percent of Montanans live with a disability.

## what do we offer?

Disability Rights Montana provides **information and referral, individual advocacy, legal representation, systems advocacy, and education and training.** We have broad statutory powers to safeguard the rights of people with disabilities. Disability Rights Montana clients make their own decisions. We work to promote self-determination, personal autonomy, and self-advocacy. We advise and present options to clients in order to assist them in making their own informed choices.

## disability rights montana helps montanans by providing:

### information & referral

We **provide information regarding the rights of people with disabilities** and provide suggestions on how to handle their situation. We offer referrals to other organizations or programs when we are not able to resolve their concerns.

### individual advocacy

We can negotiate on an individual's behalf to **resolve problems** such as denial of services, discrimination, abuse and neglect, or **support their own self-advocacy efforts.**

## legal representation

We provide legal representation to **people and groups who are eligible for our services** if their issues fall within our program area priorities. Our legal staff may also give technical assistance to private attorneys working on disability issues.

## systems advocacy

In collaboration with others, we work for **systemic changes** that affect people with disabilities, in order to improve their quality of life.

## education & training

We educate others across the state about the **legal rights of people with disabilities** through presentations to groups and organizations, participation on committees and task forces, technical assistance and educational booklets. Our staff is experienced in many disability-related areas ranging from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Montana Human Rights Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to self-advocacy, and disability awareness and etiquette.

