

Protection & Advocacy, Inc.

PAI works in partnership with people with disabilities - to protect, advocate for, and advance their human legal and service rights. We strive toward a society that values all people and supports their rights to dignity, freedom, choice and quality of life.

What is PAI?

Protection and Advocacy, Inc., (PAI) is a nonprofit agency that works in partnership with people with disabilities - to protect, advocate for and advance their human, legal, and service rights.

PAI began protecting the rights of Californians with disabilities in 1978. We now provide services to people with disabilities under four federal programs - the Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (PADD); the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act (PAIMI); the Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights Act (PAIR); and the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act (TRAID).

Under a contract with California's Department of Mental Health, PAI operates the Office of Patients' Rights (OPR) - to advocate for the rights of people with psychiatric disabilities in state hospitals, and to support patients' rights advocates.

PAI operates the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA) under a contract with California's Department of Developmental Services. OCRA provides clients' rights advocacy to individuals with developmental disabilities who are clients of California's 21 regional centers.

What does PAI do?

PAI provides advocacy services for people with disabilities. PAI may:

- Represent people with disabilities in administrative and judicial proceedings - to uphold and enforce their legal, civil and service rights.

- Bring impact litigation and act as *amicus curiae* when a case affects the rights of people with disabilities.
- Investigate complaints of serious physical and sexual abuse, and of neglect-related death in institutions.
- Tell people with disabilities about their legal, civil and service rights, and about ways to enforce those rights.
- Refer people to other sources of help.
- Provide technical support and training for people with disabilities, their families and advocates, as they resolve individual problems and problems that relate to service systems.
- Provide training in peer/self-advocacy.
- Reach out to underserved communities.
- Provide patients' rights advocacy at the four state psychiatric hospitals.
- Provide clients' rights advocacy for people with developmental disabilities who are regional center clients.

How will PAI decide whether to represent me?

In deciding whether PAI can represent you directly, PAI will consider:

- The merits of your claim;
- Your ability to advocate for yourself;
- Other advocacy sources you could use;
- Whether your problem falls within one of PAI's priority areas; and
- Availability of PAI resources.

What problems can PAI help me with?

If you have a disability and qualify for services, PAI can help you with problems like:

- Rights to basic support, personal care, homemaking, therapy and health care - like Supplemental Security Income (SSI), In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), Medi-Cal, and California Children's Services (CCS).
- Discrimination in housing, transportation, employment, and access to public and private programs and services.
- Abuse, neglect, and rights violations in an institution.
- Least restrictive environment, dignity, privacy, choice, and other basic rights.
- Special education rights - such as integration and full inclusion, services for infants and toddlers, services for children with limited English skills, and behavior-related services.
- Mental health and support services that provide individualized treatment.
- Regional center eligibility and services that promote independence - such as supported living and family supports.
- Access to technology - like communication devices and power wheelchairs.

"... the Nation's proper goals regarding individuals with disabilities are to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency ..."

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Who can get PAI services?

You could be eligible for PAI services if:

- You have a developmental disability.
- You are a regional center client.

- You have a significant psychiatric disability or emotional impairment; **and** you are currently in a facility that provides care or treatment; **or** it has been 90 days or less since you were discharged from such a facility.
- You are a patient in a state psychiatric hospital.
- You have a disability defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and you are **not** eligible under other protection and advocacy programs.
- You need access to new technology that you believe may help you live a fuller, more independent life.

Does PAI charge a fee for services?

PAI does not charge fees for services. But, we do accept tax-deductible donations to help cover the costs of providing services. Your donation will support advocacy services that PAI could not otherwise provide. We deeply appreciate your donation in any amount.

I want to join in partnership with PAI to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____.

Please add my name to the mailing list to receive PAI's Newsletter.

Please send me a copy of PAI's advocacy services plan and priorities so I can provide comments.

I would like to volunteer; please call me at (____)_____.

Name:

Address:

City:

State: _____ Zip: _____

How can I find out more about PAI's advocacy work?

Ask PAI to add your name to the mailing list to receive our *Newsletter*, or visit our web site at www.pai-ca.org.

Where can I get PAI's Services?

To ask for PAI services anywhere in California, call one of the toll free numbers below.

PAI Web Site http://www.pai-ca.org	
Administrative Office 100 Howe Ave., Suite 185-N Sacramento, CA 95825 916-488-9955	
Sacramento Regional Office 1-800-776-5746 (Voice) 1-800-719-5798 (TTY) 916-488-9950 (Voice)	So. California Regional Office 1-800-776-5746 (Voice) 1-800-781-4546 (TTY) LA/213-427-8747 (Voice) San Diego/619-239-7861 (Voice)
Bay Area Regional Office 1-800-776-5746 (Voice) 1-800-649-0154 (TTY) 510-430-8033 (Voice)	Office of Patients' Rights 1-800-254-5166 (Voice) 916-575-1614 (TTY) 916-575-1610 (Voice)
Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy 1-800-390-7032 (Voice)	

916-575-1624 (TTY)

916-575-1615 (Voice)