



DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

Disability Rights Oregon Logo

The Protection and Advocacy office for Oregon

In the Beginning...



LAWYERS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



DRO is a Non-Profit Law Firm designated as Oregon's Protection & Advocacy office. (P&A).

Each state and territory has a P&A funded by the Federal Government.

P&As have broad statutory powers to safeguard the human and civil rights of persons with disabilities.

DRO MISSION

To promote and defend
the rights of
individuals with disabilities.

DRO VISION

Disability Rights Oregon has a vision of a society in which persons with disabilities have equality of opportunity, full participation and the ability to exercise meaningful choice.

DRO SERVICES

- Advocacy for Oregonians with disabilities who have legal issues related to their disability.
- 8 attorneys, 3 intake specialists, 3 advocates, lobbyist, benefits planners and support staff.
- Available statewide to more than 600,000 Oregonians with disabilities at no cost to them.

SPECIAL POWERS



- Access to records
 - Clients with their consent
 - Those incapable of providing consent
- Access to facilities and residents
 - To investigate complaints
 - With probable cause to believe that an incident has or may have occurred
 - Monitoring

CASES DRO TAKES



Cases are accepted from about 3200 requests per year based upon:

- Legal issues that fall within annually set goals and priorities
- Cases where a person is at risk of long-term harm
- Cases that will make positive changes for the community
- Services to minority, rural and other underserved communities

CASES DRO DOES NOT



- Cases without a reasonable likelihood of success based on the facts and the law
- Cases requiring expertise or resources DRO lacks
- No representation in criminal cases
- No help with family law matters

STRATEGIES



STRATEGIES

- Information and Referral
- Advice & Self-Help Materials
- Individual representation
- Investigation of complaints of abuse or neglect
- Monitoring of facilities
- Legal representation that will enforce or change the law to further program goals
- Policy advocacy to further program goals
- Training and Outreach

PRIORITIES



STOPPING ABUSE & NEGLECT



- Investigating deaths of people in treatment care or correctional facilities
- Discovering & stopping improper seclusion & restraint
- Investigating complaints of abuse and neglect that lead to serious injuries or serious financial exploitation.

ACCESS TO THE COMMUNITY



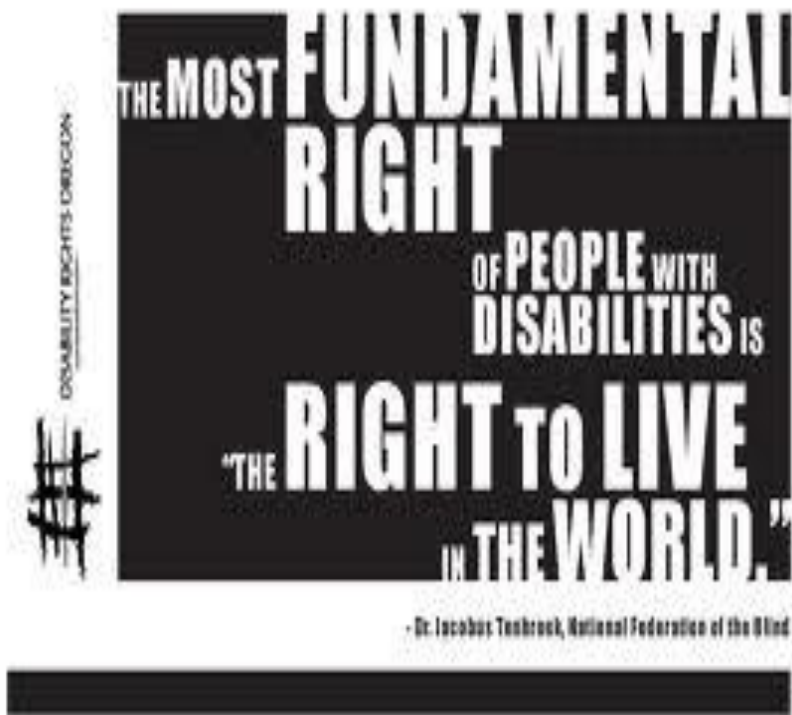
- Removing barriers in public places with an emphasis on education, transportation & the courts.
- Achieving reasonable accommodations for tenants to prevent homelessness and isolation.
- Increasing the supply of accessible housing through policy work.
- Protecting individuals against guardianships that cause significant restrictions on rights & freedoms.
- Working to achieve full participation in the electoral process.

ACCESSING ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE



- Removing barriers to health care.
- Advocating for necessary services, including assistive technology.

ACCESS TO QUALITY COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES



- Challenging denials of eligibility and community services to remain safe and independent.
- Enforcing laws to avoid unnecessary institutionalization.

ACCESS TO A FREE AND APPROPRIATE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN



- Preventing schools from keeping children out of school because of their disabilities.
- Stopping schools from using inappropriate restraints, seclusion, aversion techniques and police to deal with difficult behavior issues in educational settings.
- Securing appropriate special education services in the most integrated environment.

SAFETY AND RIGHTS IN INSTITUTIONS

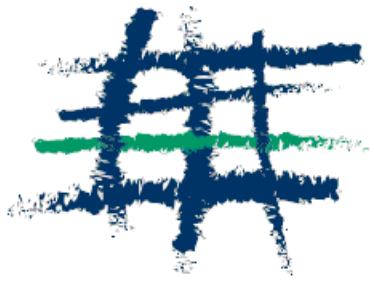


- Advocating for adequate treatment, care and services, with an emphasis on traumatic brain injury, chemical dependency and mental health issues.
- Protecting the rights and safety of individuals in institutions.
- Preventing over-use of forced medication, forced hospitalization and court procedures to restrict individual liberties.

SUPPORT OF INDEPENDENCE THROUGH EMPLOYMENT



- Assisting people receiving SSDI & SSI to obtain services and supports needed in their efforts to find and keep a job.
- Providing advocacy and education to people having problems with vocational rehabilitation Services.
- Advocating for reasonable accommodations in the work place and in employment-related licensing.



DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

OPPORTUNITY, ACCESS, CHOICE

