

Protecting Your Rights:

Tell us what is important to you.

The mission of the Advocacy Center (AC) is to protect, empower and advocate for the human and legal rights of people with disabilities and seniors living in Louisiana, in order that they may live an integrated life in the community, free from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

AC is asking people with disabilities, their families and advocates, to help set the agency's direction and priorities for the next three years.

The following brief survey was developed to make sure that people with disabilities, their families, and advocates have an opportunity to tell us what issues are most important to them. Please answer for yourself, or for the person (people) you advocate for.

Please complete this survey and return it to:

Advocacy Center
8325 Oak St
New Orleans LA 70118-2043

Thank you for your help,
Dale Higgins, President of the Board
Lois Simpson, Executive Director
Advocacy Center

Please fill in the survey below.

I am (choose all that apply):

- Person with a disability
- Family member of a person with a disability
- Service provider
- Professional
- Advocate
- Age 60+
- Other _____

I am (choose all that apply):

- African American
- White
- Hispanic
- Native American
- Asian American
- Other _____

Your Parish: _____

Have you ever used AC services?

- Yes No

If you used services, were you satisfied with AC?

- Yes No

go to the next page →

The rest of the survey includes ten issue areas that may affect the lives of people with disabilities and seniors. Please tell AC the issues you think are the most important. On the survey, if an issue is not important to you, leave it blank. There is also space to write about any issues that are not included in the survey.

1. Community Integration. Is your life in the community limited by:

- Long Waiting Lists for Services and Supports
- Poor Quality Community Programs and Services
- Discrimination due to Disability
- Other _____

2. Housing. Is where you live limited by:

- Lack of Accessible Housing
- Lack of Funding to modify your Home
- Discrimination due to Disability or Age
- Other _____

3. Access. Is your physical access limited by:

- Inaccessible Commercial Buildings, (for example, Doctors' offices, restaurants, malls, theaters)
- Inaccessible Public Buildings or Recreation Areas, (for example, courthouses, state or city buildings, parks)
- Inaccessible Polling Places
- Inability to Access Assistive Technology Devices or Services
- Other _____

4. If you live in a facility, what kind of facility is it?

- Nursing Home
- State Hospital
- Private Hospital
- Pinecrest Developmental Center
- ICF/MR
- MR/DD Group Home
- Board and Care Home
- Facility for Children
- Other _____

5. Residential Facility. If you live in a facility, are you concerned about:

- Lack of Meaningful Choices, (for example, what to eat, have visitors, when to go out)
- Safety including Abuse or Neglect
- Use of Seclusion and Restraint
- Lack of Services
- Lack of Discharge Planning
- Lack of Employment Opportunities
- Other _____

6. Employment. Are you limited by:

- Discrimination in Hiring, Lay-Offs and Firings
- Failure to provide Reasonable Accommodations so you can do your Job
- Quality of Vocational Rehabilitation Services that will help you get a Job
- Lack of Information about how going to Work will affect your Benefits
- Denial of Access to Real Work (Having to Work in Sheltered Workshops or Day Habilitation Programs)
- Other _____

7. Healthcare. Are you affected by:

- Problems with Bayou Health Medicaid Managed Care
- Problems with Magellan Medicaid Managed Care
- Problems with Magellan Coordinated System of Care
- Problems with Traditional Medicaid
- Problems with Medicare
- Problems with/Lack of Mental Health Services
- Other _____

8. Education. Are your education or early intervention services limited by:

- Early Intervention not provided in Natural Environments (home, places in the community)
- Lack of Inclusion in Regular Classrooms
- Discipline, Suspension, Expulsion including Use of Seclusion and Restraint
- Transition – from Early Intervention to Preschool, Preschool to School-Age Programs and from School to Adult Life
- State Complaint Process (Due Process)
- Assistive Technology Devices or Services
- Extended School Year
- Individual Education Plan (IEP) Implementation Problems
- Access to Mental Health/Behavioral Health Services in School
- Other _____

9. Personal decision-making. Are your choices limited by:

- Restrictive Guardianships (Interdiction)
- Exploitation, Abuse or Neglect by a Guardian
- Exploitation, Abuse or Neglect by a Rep Payee
- Lack of Assistance with Advance Directives, (for example, living wills, power of attorney)
- Other _____

10. Describe other legal issues in your life that you are concerned about:

Enter your email address to sign up for: _____

- Partner With Us*
- Policy Updates*
- Pushing the Envelope: Advocacy Center News in Brief*
- Take Action! AC Alert*

Partner With Us: Want to find out about ways in which you can become involved with the Advocacy Center? Sign up for this email list! Throughout the year, we'll send emails about AC events, volunteer opportunities, and ways you can help spread awareness about our agency.

Policy Updates: Throughout the year, Policy Update emails will update you on federal, state, and local policy decisions of note, including federal legislation, regulatory issues, policy debates, and other systemic issues that may impact people with disabilities and seniors in Louisiana. During the LA Legislative session, we will send regular updates summarizing major legislation. These emails will be informational only. They won't include a call to action.

Pushing the Envelope: Advocacy Center News in Brief: This is the Advocacy Center's free e-newsletter. It includes articles on issues impacting people with disabilities and seniors and the work of the Advocacy Center. It also includes a calendar of events and People of AC, which features AC staff. It is published monthly.

Take Action! AC Alert: These emails are calls to action and will ask you to read about an issue and consider taking action by contacting elected officials or other policymakers. During the LA Legislative session, alerts will be sent several times a week, and maybe even several times a day. During the rest of the year, we'll send these alerts only to keep you informed about you how you can participate in federal, state, and local public policy issues.

To request help from the Advocacy Center, call 1-800-960-7705 (Voice or via 711 Relay) or email advocacycenter@advocacyla.org. Our Intake Specialist will contact you within 1-2 business days to discuss your issue in detail and determine if AC can help.

Thank you for filling out this survey. Your ideas are important to AC.

Return by mail to: Advocacy Center, 8325 Oak St, New Orleans LA 70118-2043
or email to advocacycenter@advocacyla.org.