

## What is the Disabilities Law Program?

The Disabilities Law Program is a special project of Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. and is designated by the Governor as the Protection and Advocacy agency in Delaware.

This program provides advocacy services to Delaware residents with physical or mental disabilities. Given limited resources, services are prioritized based on needs identified by consumer and community groups.



## Multiple Projects

The Disabilities Law Program includes seven advocacy projects:

**PAIMI** – *Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness*

**PATBI** – *Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury*

**PADD** – *Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities*

**PAIR** – *Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights*

**PAVA** – *Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access*

**PAAT** – *Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology*

**PABSS** – *Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security*

Community Legal Aid Society is an Affirmative Action Agency. For assistance or information please call or write:

**New Castle County**  
Disabilities Law Program  
Community Service Building  
100 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 801  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
302-575-0690 (voice)  
302-575-0696 (TTY)  
1-800-292-7980 (toll free)

**Kent County**  
Disabilities Law Program  
840 Walker Road  
Dover, DE 19904  
302-674-8503 (voice)  
302-674-9430 (TTY)  
1-800-537-8383 (toll free)

**Sussex County**  
Disabilities Law Program  
20151 Office Circle  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
302-856-3742 (voice/)  
302-856-7491 (TTY)  
1-800-462-7070 (toll free)

Website: [www.declasi.org](http://www.declasi.org)



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Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

# Disabilities Law Program

Advocacy Services for Individuals with Disabilities in Delaware



## Program Eligibility and Focus

### **PAIMI** – *Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness*

PAIMI serves persons with mental illness who either:

- Reside in a public or private facility (such as a hospital, nursing home, institution, or community care home), or
- Reside in the community but are at risk of abuse, neglect or civil rights violation

PAIMI typically provides services in securing rights to:

- An individualized treatment plan
- Appropriate treatment
- A comprehensive discharge plan
- Freedom from abuse and neglect
- Other rights related to the disability.

### **PATBI** – *Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury*

PATBI serves individuals with traumatic brain injury, an injury to the head caused by blunt, penetrating, or other force which generally results in mental or physical dysfunction.

PATBI typically assists in securing rights to:

- Special education and vocational training
- “Safety net” public benefits such as SSI and Medicaid
- Freedom from employment and housing discrimination
- Freedom from inappropriate institutionalization
- Other rights related to the disability.

### **PADD** – *Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities*

PADD serves individuals with a severe mental or physical impairment that developed before age 22 which causes multiple major functional limitations that are expected to last indefinitely.

The program also serves young children from birth to age 5 with developmental disabilities, or with conditions that may lead to developmental disabilities without services.

PADD typically assists in securing rights to:

- Appropriate treatment
- A free and appropriate public education
- Freedom from discrimination in housing and family services
- Accessibility
- Financial entitlements including Medicaid services and children’s SSI
- Freedom from abuse and neglect
- Other rights related to the disability.

### **PAIR** – *Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights*

PAIR serves individuals with a severe physical or mental disability that is not considered developmental, or that occurred after the age of 22.

PAIR provides advocacy services to protect rights in the areas of:

- Freedom from discrimination in housing
- Accessibility to public accommodations
- Availability and access to transportation
- Public agency policy accommodations
- Other rights related to the disability.

### **PAVA** – *Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access*

PAVA serves individuals with disabilities with education, training and assistance to promote full participation in the electoral process, including registration, casting a vote, and accessing polling places.

PAVA may provide advocacy to overcome policy and physical barriers impeding voter registration and access to polling sites and usable voting equipment.

### **PABSS** – *Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security*

PABSS serves current Social Security or SSI beneficiaries who wish to work, particularly participants in the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program. Services include:

- Provision of information and training on work incentives and employment
- Advocacy to overcome barriers to employment
- Investigation of complaints against employers or providers involved in return to work effort
- Correction of defects in vocational rehabilitation, employment, and support agencies.

### **PAAT** – *Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology*

PAAT serves individuals with disabilities who would be helped by assistive technology (e.g. wheelchairs, communication devices).

PAAT provides advocacy services in the educational, Medicaid, and government services contexts.

## Types of Services Provided

### **Individual Advocacy**

including investigation, mediation, negotiation, legal consultation, and legal representation.

### **Systemic Advocacy**

emphasizing major reform efforts on critical issues affecting client groups through negotiation, legislation, regulatory work, and litigation.

### **General Information**

regarding available services, rights and remedies to clients and their families, service providers, attorneys, and other representatives.

### **Referral Services**

provided to those who may be better served by other sources such as state, local, or federal agencies, or other advocacy organizations.

### **Community Education/Self Advocacy Training**

provided through training and legal information workshops and distribution of educational materials .

All services are free of charge.

Tax deductible contributions of any size are welcome.

SSA has reviewed the PABSS section of this document for technical accuracy only. However, it should not be considered an official SSA document.