

## 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. 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. You can also fill out a Request for Service form on our website.



disability **rights**  
montana

Disability Rights Montana protects and advocates for the **human, legal and civil rights of Montanans with disabilities** while advancing dignity, equality and self-determination.

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# disability **rights** montana

## 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. Our 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.

