

Disability Rights Connecticut

About DRCT

- ▶ **Legal advocacy organization**
- ▶ **Dedicated to identifying and eliminating barriers** faced by people with disabilities when exercising their civil, legal, and human rights.
- ▶ **Independent, nonprofit organization**
- ▶ **Largely funded by federal entities** and authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, the Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights Act, and the other protection and advocacy system acts, and their respective implementing regulations.



Mission Statement

DRCT's mission is to advocate, educate, investigate and pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies to advance and protect the civil rights of individuals with disabilities to participate equally and fully in all facets of community life in Connecticut.

Who We Help



Connecticut Residents.

All ages.

All types of disabilities.

What We Do

▶ **Systemic Advocacy**

- ▶ DRCT focuses its limited resources on systemic issues affecting large numbers of people with disabilities.

▶ **Information and Referral (I&R)**

- ▶ We provide information, resources, or self-advocacy assistance with issues that meet our established priorities.

▶ **Monitoring & Investigating Facilities**

- ▶ DRCT has the authority to monitor locations where people with disabilities go to school, work, or live and to investigate reports of abuse and neglect or where it has probable cause to believe that persons with disabilities have been abused or neglected.
- ▶ We do not duplicate the services of other state mandated protective services but may conduct a secondary investigation if warranted.

Community Engagement

- ▶ **DRCT works with individuals with disabilities, their families and community partners to understand common goals, priorities and visions. DRCT staff provide outreach and training to establish and maintain community relationships, and implement strategies that promote diversity, equity and inclusion.**
- ▶ **DRCT can provide training, upon request, on issues related to our focus areas. If you believe you, or a group you are a member of, could benefit from a training, you can submit requests for training and outreach to DRCT.**

Know Your Rights & Responsibilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) & Section 504 of the Rehab Act of 1973

The ADA & Section 504 are federal civil rights laws.

Intended to protect people with disabilities against discrimination in everyday activities

Guarantees equal access to employment opportunities, goods, services, and programs that are open to the public.

Education Rights Clinic

- ▶ One-hour appointments with an advocate, law student, or attorney
 - ▶ Answer questions
 - ▶ Provide self-advocacy tips and suggestions, and
 - ▶ Explain the rights due to a student and family under IDEA, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act

To request an appointment:

www.disrightsct.org/education-rights-clinic



Client Assistance Program CAP



What is the Client Assistance Program? (CAP)

- ▶ CAP helps people working with Connecticut's **Vocational Rehabilitation** (VR) agencies.
- ▶ CAP can help people with disabilities who are working with:
 1. the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (**BRS**) or
 2. the VR program at the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (**BESB**).
- ▶ CAP can help you
 - ▶ understand your rights
 - ▶ Understand what BRS and BESB can and cannot do for you.

Sometimes it can be hard to get through the process.

CAP supports people who are:



Applying for services



Already getting services



or have been denied services from BRS or BESB

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) can also address questions or complaints related to service from Connecticut's FIVE (5) Independent Living Centers (ILC).



CAP may be able to help if Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) or an Independent Living Center (ILC) has:

- ▶ Denied your request for services,
- ▶ Offered you fewer services than you need,
- ▶ Found you ineligible and you disagree,
- ▶ Stopped communicating with you,
- ▶ Offered you an employment goal that is not in line with your skills, interests and abilities.
- ▶ Placed you in an inappropriate priority category under the Order of Selection, or
- ▶ Closed your case before your goal was met.



What happens when you ask for help?

CAP can answer questions, like:

- ▶ How do BRS and BESB work?
- ▶ What can they do for me?
- ▶ What do they NOT do for me?
- ▶ How can I try to solve the problem on my own?



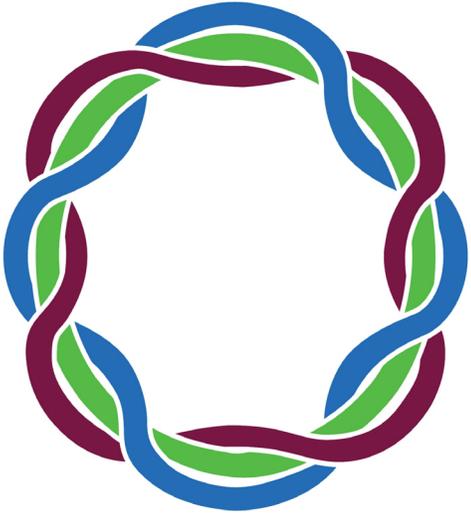
- ▶ If that doesn't work, the CAP advocate will work with you to find the best way to solve the problem.
- ▶ Every case is different.

Any assistance
that the CAP
provides is at
no cost to you.





QUESTIONS?



DISABILITY RIGHTS CONNECTICUT

Justice. Community. Inclusion.

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WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

CONTACT US AT:

860-297-4300 (VOICE)

860-509-4992 (VIDEOPHONE)

800-842-7303 (TOLL-FREE IN CT)

WWW.DISRIGHTSCT.ORG

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