STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES, OBJECTIVES, AND CASE SELECTION CRITERIA
PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS 2024

THE MISSION of Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services (DRDC) is to ensure that District of Columbia residents with disabilities have the legal rights to which they are entitled, including the right to be free from harm, the right to individual choice and the right to full inclusion in the community.

The following are the priority and objectives for the Protection and Advocacy Program for Individual Rights (PAIR) for 2024:

1. Advocate on behalf of people with disabilities to ensure their access to DC government services and supports in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs and to public accommodations.

   a. Advocate and litigate on behalf of people with disabilities to challenge the District’s improper termination, denial or reduction of Medicaid home health services including complaints arising from the District’s implementation of the InterRAI long-term care assessment tool.

   b. Work through systemic and individual advocacy, investigation, outreach and education to ensure that public accommodations (privately-run businesses and facilities open to the public), polling sites, and governmental facilities and programs in the District of Columbia are accessible to people with mobility, hearing, and visual disabilities as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

   c. Investigate and remedy allegations of abuse and/or neglect against people with disabilities who seek to transition from nursing facilities and/or live in the community.

   d. Provide outreach and education to program administrators and staff, policy-makers, advocates, and people with disabilities, including those in nursing facilities, to promote self-determination, consumer choice, access to and preservation of high quality services for people with disabilities in the most integrated, appropriate settings.

   e. Represent plaintiff class members in Brown v. District of Columbia on remand to the Federal District Court of the District of Columbia, along with co-counsel AARP Foundation Litigation and Terris, Pravlik, & Millian. Brown is a lawsuit under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on behalf of DC Medicaid beneficiaries in nursing facilities who seek the District’s assistance to transition back to the community with the Medicaid long-term care services they need.
CASE SELECTION CRITERIA

DRDC accepts cases related to protecting the legal and human rights of individuals who reside in the District of Columbia who have disabilities that fall within the aforementioned priorities.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

While Disability Rights DC (DRDC) at University Legal Services (ULS) recognizes that every situation is important, please note that case acceptance is dependent upon available resources, including staff time. If your case is not accepted and you wish to file a grievance, please submit your grievance in writing to ULS’ Executive Director. Current clients may also submit a grievance to the Executive Director about the quality of DRDC’s representation and regarding a decision to close a case. In addition, an individual who receives mental health or other services, his/her family members or representatives may also submit a grievance regarding DRDC’s advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities and role as the DC protection and advocacy program. If requested, an individual may lodge an oral grievance with a DRDC staff member who shall put the grievance in writing and submit it to the Executive Director. The Executive Director may be reached at:

Jane Brown, Executive Director
University Legal Services
220 I Street, N.E., Suite 130
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547-0198 Phone
(202) 547-2662 Fax
(202) 547-2657 TTY
jbrown@uls-dc.org

The Executive Director shall respond in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of a grievance from any client or prospective client, or community member who has an interest in the operation of the protection and advocacy program.

A grievant may appeal the Executive Director’s decision to the ULS Board of Directors within ten (10) days of the written decision of the Executive Director. The decision of the ULS Board of Directors shall be final and not subject to further appeal or review. Client confidentiality shall be maintained.

The Executive Director shall report grievances to the Board of Directors annually.