

Case Selection Information

DRN advocates for the full implementation of the civil rights of persons with disabilities, especially the right of persons with disabilities to live as integral parts of their communities. DRN makes every effort to provide each person with some form of assistance, such as available options to help resolve a problem, direction to an appropriate government or private agency that may be of assistance or, when appropriate, referral to a legal services program or a lawyer referral service.

1. Eligibility for Services

DRN provides services through several different programs. In order to obtain DRN services, an individual must meet the eligibility criteria of at least one of these programs, which include:

a. PADD (Developmental Disabilities)

An individual is eligible for PADD services if he/she has a severe, chronic disability that 1) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments; 2) is manifested before the individual attains age 22; 3) is likely to continue indefinitely; 4) results in substantial functional limitations in at least three of the following major life activities: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, or economic self-interest; and 5) reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are lifelong or of extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting three or more of the five criteria listed above if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

b. PAIMI (Mental Illness)

An individual is eligible for PAIMI services if he/she meets one of the following standards:

1) (a) has a significant mental illness or emotional impairment, as determined by a qualified mental health professional; and (b) is an inpatient or resident in a facility rendering care or treatment (even if whereabouts are presently unknown) *or* is in the process of being admitted to a facility rendering care or treatment (including those transported to such a facility) *or* is involuntarily confined in a municipal detention facility for reasons other than serving a sentence for a criminal conviction *or* lives in a community setting (including her own house);

2) had mental illness and was a resident of the state, but only with respect to matters which occurred within 90 days after discharge from a facility providing care or treatment; or

3) has mental illness and is in a federal facility rendering care or treatment and who requests representation (directly or by a legal representative) by the P&A.

c. PAIR

An individual is eligible for PAIR services if he/she has a disability and 1) needs protection and advocacy services that are beyond the scope of those authorized to be provided by the Client Assistance Program of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and 2) is otherwise ineligible for PADD or PAIMI services.

d. Assistive Technology (AT)

Individual must be a person with a disability who otherwise qualifies for PADD, PAIMI, or PAIR services; who is or would be enabled by an assistive technology device or an assistive technology service to minimize deterioration in functioning, to maintain a level of

functioning, or to achieve a greater level of functioning in any major life activity; and who needs assistance with acquiring, utilizing, or maintaining such assistive technology device or service.

e. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

A person is eligible for TBI services if the person has a traumatic brain injury or if a family member of the person informs DRN that the person has a traumatic brain injury. Note: A person with acquired brain injury is eligible for PAIR services.

f. Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

Individual must 1) be a Title II (SSDI) and/or Title XVI (SSI) beneficiary who is a) receiving cash benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA); b) is not receiving cash benefits from SSA, but is entitled to Medicaid or Medicare benefits as a result of having received cash benefits; or c) is receiving a supplemental payment from a state; and 2) need assistance to help him/her obtain, maintain, or regain employment.

g. HAVA (Voting)

Individual must be a person with a disability who otherwise qualifies for PADD, PAIMI, or PAIR services who would benefit from assistance to assure full participation in the electoral process, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places. Litigation-related activities may not be provided as part of the HAVA program.