

Ohio Legal Rights Service

In partnership with people with disabilities ~
Protecting civil, legal and human rights
Advocating for equal opportunities



OHIO LEGAL RIGHTS SERVICE

... protection and advocacy for people with disabilities

Ohio Legal Rights Service Created in 1976

- Purpose is to provide an agency overview:
 - Mission
 - Services
 - Priority areas for OLRs services
 - Partnerships

OLRS Mission

To protect and advocate,
in partnership with people with disabilities,
for their human, civil and legal rights.

About OLR

- Created by state law to protect and advocate the rights of people with disabilities.
- Ohio's federally designated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system.
- Part of a national network of P&A systems.
- An independent state agency.
- Governed by a seven member Commission.



OLRS Services

- Intake and Short Term Assistance
- Legal advocacy
- Non-legal Ombuds section
- Monitor legislation, public policy
- Education and trainings



OLRS Services: Intake and Information / Referrals

- Intake Unit:
 - Intake specialists and supervisors,
 - Interviews people who contact the agency,
 - Documents requests for assistance,
 - Provides information, referrals, and short term assistance,
 - Managing attorney reviews requests for assistance and assigns cases consistent with publicly developed priorities.

OLRS Services: Legal Advocacy

- Attorneys, Paralegals, Disability Rights Advocates provide representation for:
 - Individual children and adults,
 - Groups of people with disabilities,
 - Class action litigation.
- Amicus (Friend of the Court) briefs on disability-related matters.



LRS

OHIO LEGAL RIGHTS SERVICE for people with disabilities

OLRS Services: Non-legal Ombuds Section

- Investigates complaints regarding health and safety, abuse and neglect, and rights violations.
- Resolves complaints through mechanisms such as mediation and negotiation.
- Created by state law, funded by state General Revenue Funds.



LRS

OLRS Services: Monitor Legislation, Public Policy

- Educate and inform policy makers on the impact of federal and state laws and regulations.
- Participate on state and national committees.

OLRS Services: Education and Trainings

- Provide education for groups of people with disabilities and their families.
- Speaker's Bureau.
- Conferences speakers.
- Meet other requests as resources allow.



Priority areas for P&A services

- Access to courts / criminal justice
- Children
- Abuse and neglect
- Community integration
- Employment
- Self advocates / peer support
- Ensure voting rights



LRS

Read case examples of OLRS
Protection and Advocacy at
<http://olrs.ohio.gov/asp/cases.asp>

Priorities and Planning

- OLRSS establishes annual priorities.
- OLRSS has a 5-year Strategic Planning cycle.
- OLRSS wants to hear ideas about agency priorities and strategic planning.
- Anybody can phone, email or write OLRSS about any matter, including agency priorities and strategic plan.

Partnerships

- History of working with local and state organizations to fulfill its mission.
- Support self-advocacy organizations.
- Coordinate and partner with Legal Aid Societies and other legal agencies.



Contact OLRs

Ohio Legal Rights Service
50 West Broad Street, Suite 1400
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5923

Telephone 614.466.7264
Toll Free 1.800.282.9181
TTY Toll Free 1.800.858.3542
Fax 614.644.1888
Email Intake@olrs.state.oh.us

Visit olrs.ohio.gov