

Ohio Legal Rights Service



Ohio Legal Rights Service (LRS)

Created in 1976

Purpose is to provide an agency overview

- Mission
- Services
- Priority areas for LRS services
- Partnerships

LRS Mission

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



About LRS

- Designated under federal law as the system to protect and advocate the rights of people with disabilities and as the Client Assistance Program under the Rehabilitation Act.
- Part of a national network of protection and advocacy (P&A) systems.
- An independent state agency of the State of Ohio.
- Governed by a seven member Commission.



LRS Services

- Intake and short term assistance
- Legal advocacy
- Non-legal Ombudsperson section
- Monitor legislation, public policy
- Education and trainings

LRS 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

LRS 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 Services

Non-legal Ombudsperson 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 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.

LRS 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

- Equality of Opportunity
- Economic Self-Sufficiency
- Full Participation
- Independent Living
- Intake and Short Term Assistance
- Outreach and Education

LRS' priorities are found on the web at
<http://www.olrs.ohio.gov/priorities>

Read case examples of LRS
Protection and Advocacy at:

<http://www.olrs.ohio.gov/action-results>



Priorities and Planning

- LRS establishes annual priorities.
- LRS wants to hear ideas about agency priorities and strategic planning.
- Anybody can phone, email or write LRS about any matter, including agency priorities.

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 LRS

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