

What is P&A?

The Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A) is a federally mandated program that protects the rights of individuals with disabilities.

P&A works with people in inpatient settings. Some things that P&A helps people with are:

- support for discharge from the inpatient setting back to the community.
- prevention of abuse, neglect & exploitation.

Administrative Office

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P&A Outreach Offices

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857-7686

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School for the Deaf
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665-4426

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1351 Page Drive #303
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253-3295

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328-2950

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**NORTH
DAKOTA
PROTECTION &
ADVOCACY
PROJECT**

**AN ADVOCACY
AGENCY FOR
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES**

**ADVOCACY SERVICES
FOR INPATIENT
MENTAL HEALTH
SETTINGS**

www.ndpanda.org

P&A's mission: Uniting to champion the equality and inclusion of people with disabilities where we live, learn, work and play.

Community Inclusion

What is *community inclusion*?

- living in your own home,
- having choices for involvement in the community and,
- receiving needed support and services to stay in the community of your choice.

If you and your treatment team believe you do not need inpatient treatment, and;

- you want to live in the community, and
- you want services that will help you stay in the community,

P&A wants to help.

P&A WILL ...

help you to:

- work with your team to make a plan to move out of the treatment setting.
- get the services you need to move to a community setting.

P&A WILL NOT ...

help you with regard to:

- criminal charges.
- court-ordered commitment.
- privilege levels.
- other issues for which you already have an attorney.

Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

North Dakota State Law...

- has definitions of what abuse, neglect and exploitation (a/n/e) mean. These definitions include:
 - use of unauthorized seclusion and restraint;
 - failing to develop and/or follow the treatment plan.
- has reporting requirements and procedures that say:
 - staff **must** report.
 - anyone **can** make a report.
 - a report should be made **as soon as possible** to ensure safety.

P&A WILL ...

- provide training to you & staff on a/n/e & how to report.
- ensure all allegations are acted upon (identify **what** happened, **why** it happened, & **how** to prevent it from happening again).

P&A WILL NOT ...

- fire staff or become involved in other personnel issues.
- interfere with appropriate treatment plans or goals.

P&A Priorities

In addition to **community inclusion** and **abuse, neglect & exploitation**, P&A priorities include the following:

- **Criminal Justice** - disability-related issues in the law enforcement system
- **Education** - student identification, evaluation, least restrictive environment, school-to-adult transition issues
- **Employment** - employment-related barriers; discrimination
- **Healthcare** - denials of coverage by public and private payers; Medicaid program limits
- **Voting** - ensuring voters with disabilities are informed about the voting process, voter rights, and accessible voting

P&A priorities include helping people with disabilities acquire needed assistive technology devices and services.

P&A does not discriminate in admission or access to, or employment in, its programs and activities. If accommodations are needed as a result of a disability, or if you need this material in an alternative format, please contact a P&A office.