P&A Services

Uniting to champion the equality and inclusion of people with disabilities where we live, learn, work and play.
What is Protection and Advocacy

- The Protection & Advocacy Project (P&A) is an independent State agency that protects and advocates for the rights of people with disabilities within established priorities.
- Network of 57 P&As
Service Information

- All ages
- All types of disabilities
- Exclusively for the person with the disability
- No cost
Programs

- Protection and Advocacy for the Developmentally Disabled (PADD)
- Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI)
- Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR)
- Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)
- Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)
- Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)
- Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA)
- The Client Assistance Program (CAP)
- Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries with Representative Payees (PABRP)
People served by P&A include infants, children and adults of all ages.

Funds for program operations are from federal grants with additional support provided by the State of North Dakota.

No cost for services.

P&A does implement general eligibility requirements, including that the individual must reside within the State of North Dakota.

Eligible individuals must have a qualifying disability as identified within P&A’s programs.
SERVICES

Services provided to all North Dakotans:

- P&A provides information & referral, as well as information and education, to individuals and organizations.
Services provided to eligible individuals:

- Advocacy assistance - limited assistance for disability-related problems
- Advocacy representation - representation by a P&A advocate for identified rights violations
- Legal representation - representation by an attorney when an identified rights violation cannot be resolved through advocacy
- Protective services - activities in response to reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation of individuals with disabilities
Other services include:

- **Systems advocacy** to address broad concerns with disability services and rights
- Support to self-advocacy groups
- **Sharing legislative & policy information**
Priorities
FY 2023

Subject to Board Approval
Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation

- Investigating reports of mistreatment
- Training to service provider staff
- Systematic Monitoring
- Quality Assurance with provider systems
Community Inclusion - Inclusion

- Advocating for people who reside in institutional settings to move into the community
- Helping people who are at risk of moving to an institutional setting stay in the community
Community Inclusion - Education

- Helping students obtain positive behavioral supports
- Advocating for appropriate transition services
- Advocating for students placed in overly restrictive settings
- Seclusion and restraint
- Denial of 504 disability-related accommodations
Community Inclusion - Employment

- Address barriers to employment by advocating for support and services for people with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment.
- Advocate for comprehensive transition services and planning.
- Addressing disability-related employment discrimination and reasonable accommodations at work.
- Ensure that individuals are satisfied with employment supports and employment-related services provided.
Community Inclusion - Healthcare

- Advocating for disability-related medically necessary healthcare coverage.
Community Inclusion - Voting

- Educating voters with disabilities about accessible ways to vote, the voting process, and their rights as voters.
- Ensuring voters with disabilities have information and input into potential changes with the voting system.
- Ensuring polling places are fully accessible.
Community Inclusion - Assistive Technology

- Address inappropriate denials of disability-related Assistive Technology supports in the community, within educational settings, and relative to employment.
Criminal & Juvenile Justice

- Advocating for individuals to receive mental illness related treatment and supports within correctional facilities.
- Implementing justice plans that address unmet, disability-related needs for youth with behavioral health or mental illness.
- Represent individuals with mental illness at forced medication hearings.
Training for people with disabilities, family members, services providers, and the public regarding disability rights.

Collaboration with partners.

Influence and actively advocate for systems change.

Conduct outreach to ensure people have knowledge of disability rights and P&A services.

Educate policymakers regarding disability rights issues.
P&A Offices

- Williston
- Minot
- Belcourt
- Devils Lake
- Grand Forks
- Grafton
- Fargo
- Jamestown
- Bismarck
- Dickinson
Contacting P&A

- (701) 328-2950 (Bismarck/Mandan)
- 1-800-472-2670 (Statewide)
- panda_intake@nd.gov
- www.ndpanda.org