



WHO IS DISABILITY LAW COLORADO?

Disability Law Colorado is the Protection & Advocacy System for Colorado and host agency for the Colorado State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, State PACE (Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) Ombudsman program, and Legal Assistance Developer for the Elderly program. We work to protect disability rights, elder rights and residents' rights; and committed to increasing opportunities for adults and children with disabilities to live, work and attend school in the community, enjoying independent and productive lives.



COLORADO'S PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEM

In 1977, the Governor designated Disability Law Colorado to be Colorado's Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System for people with developmental disabilities. Over time, Congress expanded the P&A Network which now includes eight federally mandated programs that allow us to reach out to more people with disabilities. Today, Disability Law Colorado is recognized as a leader in the National Disability Rights Network made up of Protection and Advocacy programs from every state and territory.

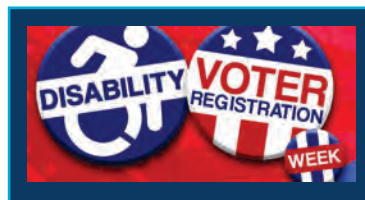
OLDER AMERICANS ACT PROGRAMS

In 1988 Disability Law Colorado was selected to administer the Colorado Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (including the PACE Ombudsman in 2017) and the Legal Assistance Developer for Elders Program. These Older Americans Act programs work to protect resident rights and elder rights throughout Colorado; to improve quality of life and to protect them from neglect and abuse.

PUBLIC POLICY & LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

As we continue our commitment to protect and promote disability rights, resident rights, elder rights and quality long-term care in Colorado, you'll find Disability Law Colorado:

- **In the conversation:** Informing and shaping the debate on disability rights, elder rights and long-term care; providing perspective to the media, partner groups, opponents, and thought leaders.
- **At the ballot:** Our advocacy efforts put important policies on the ballot, giving Coloradans the power to advocate for disability and elder rights with their votes.
- **At the legislature:** Elected leaders rely on Disability Law Colorado's expertise and unique insights on disability rights, elder rights and long-term care, often looking to us to better understand their communities' needs. We advance legislation and assist coalition partners with their goals.



- **In the community:** Disability Law Colorado connects with local leaders and residents from communities across Colorado through outreach events and educational meetings, and also builds strong coalitions to elevate issues.

PROTECTION & ADVOCACY TEAMS

- Facilities** | investigating abuse and neglect
- Community Integration** | community services and moving individuals from restrictive settings into the community
- Education** | ensuring equal access and appropriate education services
- Access** | housing, employment and public accommodations
- Centralized Intake** | streamlining information gathering and service referrals



OLDER AMERICANS ACT PROGRAMS

- State Long-Term Care Ombudsman**
- Legal Assistance Developer for Elders**
- State PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) Ombudsman**



Denver Office
455 Sherman St. #130
Denver, CO 80203
303.722.0300 TEL

Grand Junction Office
322 North 8th St.
Grand Junction, CO 81501
970.241.6371 TEL

For more information contact:

Carrie Griffin Basas, Esq., M.Ed.
Executive Director
303.722.0300 | cbasas@disabilitylawco.org

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STORY OF IMPACT | PROTECTING ELDER RIGHTS

A gentleman who was improperly admitted to an assisted living home contacted the ombudsman. After meeting with him, the ombudsman discovered that he had been improperly admitted to a secure (locked) unit by his wife. The wife was also using undue influence to coerce him into signing a Power of Attorney (POA) and petitioned the court for emergency guardianship. This was likely related to a pending multi-million dollar sale of his real estate. He requested ombudsman assistance to correct paperwork with the facility where his wife had improperly admitted him and limited his right to visitors, and use of phone and mail through the POA. Through the coordination of Adult Protective Services, the client's private attorney, the ombudsman and a private case manager an agreement was made whereby the wife dropped the guardianship petition and he moved with support to his daughter's home where he was able to complete the sale.



STORY OF IMPACT | EDUCATION

Disability Law Colorado worked with a high-school aged student with significant hearing loss and developmental disabilities after his mom contacted us with concerns regarding his educational services. His mom did not believe that his Individualized Education Program (IEP) was being implemented and that he was therefore being denied the free appropriate public education (FAPE) he is entitled to under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.



We immediately prepared to file a complaint with the Colorado Department of Education, but fortunately did not need to take that action because we were able to negotiate a settlement agreement with the district to ensure the student was provided FAPE and received compensatory services.

DISABILITY LAW COLORADO PRIORITIES

Abuse and Neglect in Facilities – We will act to ensure that people with disabilities are free from serious abuse and neglect in facilities, including: jails, prisons, regional centers, day programs, children's residential treatment centers and state mental health institutes.

Community Integration – We will work to ensure that people with disabilities can overcome legal obstacles that either prevent them from leaving an institution to live in the community or put them at risk for institutionalization.

Employment – We will work with individuals and systemically on legal issues faced by people with disabilities in or entering the workforce.

Education – We will work on systemic issues with students with disabilities and their families to ensure that they are receiving appropriate educational services from birth through higher education.

Service & Assistance Animals – We will work on systemic legal issues related to the rights of a person with a disability to use a service or assistance animal.

Equal Access – We will work on systemic legal issues to ensure that people with disabilities living in the community have equal access to housing, services and businesses.

Monitoring – As Colorado's designated disability rights Protection & Advocacy agency, Disability Law Colorado has broad authority to monitor facilities and settings that provide care, treatment, or services to individuals with disabilities.

Colorado Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Colorado PACE Ombudsman – These programs work to support the legally guaranteed rights to quality care and quality of life for residents of assisted living facilities and nursing homes as well as participants of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) across Colorado.

Legal Assistance Developer Program – The Legal Assistance Developer provides state leadership in securing and maintaining the legal rights of older individuals as well as developing the state's capacity to improve the quality and quantity of legal services provided to elders. Rights issues and discrimination in any setting.



**DISABILITY LAW
COLORADO™**

Promote Change | Protect Rights | Improve Lives

