

Disability Rights Maryland

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the state's designated Protection & Advocacy agency, with 40 years of experience providing free, specialized legal services to individuals with disabilities across the state. Please join us in this gratifying and important work!

Support our mission of creating a more integrated, just society and improving the lives of Marylanders with disabilities by advancing their legal rights, and ensuring equal opportunity to participate in community life.

In lieu of representation, attorneys can contribute by making a donation to Disability Rights Maryland and help strengthen our ability to serve the disability community.

Visit: www.DisabilityRightsMD.org/donate

Disability Rights Maryland

1500 Union Avenue, Suite 2000, Baltimore, MD 21211

For more information about Pro Bono opportunities, please contact

Pamela Foresman, Pro Bono Coordinator at
(410) 727-6352 x. 2506 or
email: PamelaF@DisabilityRightsMD.org



Pro Bono Opportunities

Volunteer with Disability Rights Maryland to make a difference in the lives of Marylanders with disabilities.





DRM's Pro Bono Program

Each year thousands of individuals with disabilities contact Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) seeking legal assistance. Through our Pro Bono Program and partnership with the private bar, volunteer attorneys bring much needed legal advocacy services to children, low-income individuals, and veterans with disabilities across the state.

DRM screens all cases for merit and assigns these cases to partnering attorneys based on personal advocacy interests and geographical convenience.

Volunteer areas include:

- Special education
- Access to services under Medicaid

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Assisting Adults & Children to Access Healthcare Services



Under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid), governed by state and federal law, adults and children with disabilities have the right to receive medically necessary services as recommended by their healthcare professional and covered by Medical Assistance.

Medicaid recipients, however, are often denied services to which they are legally entitled. Many times, a denial involves desperately needed healthcare services that may prevent an individual from being institutionalized and may even be a matter of life and death. These denials can be appealed, but many individuals fail to do so because they simply don't have the financial resources to hire an attorney. Without an attorney, an appeal is unlikely to succeed.

Most Medicaid recipients who contact DRM have strong legal cases with the sole issue being whether the service is "medically necessary" under the state's definition. In these cases, this issue is directly addressed because the treating health care professional has recommended and documented the need for specific health care services.

DRM only has the resources to handle a small fraction of these cases. Volunteer attorneys are crucial to addressing this need. Most cases involve preparation for a hearing before the Office of Administrative Hearings. A high percentage of these cases settle before the hearing.



Special Education

Maryland has more than 100,000 students with disabilities, and federal law guarantees every one of them the right to a "free and appropriate public education."

Unfortunately, school systems do not always fulfill their obligations and many parents are unaware of their children's rights or are overwhelmed by the special education process. Many students are denied access to the supports and services needed to succeed in the classroom, are subjected to illegal restraint or seclusion, or are disproportionately suspended and expelled.

DRM cannot meet the demand from hundreds of students with disabilities needing legal assistance. However, volunteer attorneys participating in DRM's Pro Bono Program directly address this need and make a long-lasting impact on the lives of children by representing those whose educational rights have been violated.

Get Involved!

Attorneys need no prior experience to be an effective advocate. **DRM provides**

- Comprehensive training and materials (in person or online)
- Professional liability insurance
- Ongoing technical support and mentoring to enable attorneys to represent their clients confidently and effectively.

