

Madison

131 W. Wilson St., Suite 700
Madison, WI 53703
608-267-0214
Fax 608-267-0368

Milwaukee

6737 W. Washington St., Suite 3230
Milwaukee, WI 53214
414-773-4646
Fax 414-773-4647

Rice Lake

217 West Knapp Street
Rice Lake, WI 54868
715-736-1232
Fax 715-736-1252

Toll Free for all offices: 800-928-8778

for persons with disabilities and their families

Statewide Drug Benefit Medicare Part D Help line

Toll Free 800-926-4862

Tenemos empleados quienes hablan español.
Language translation on the phone provided
for non-English speakers.

Alternative formats of this brochure available
upon request; contact 800-928-8778.

disabilityrightswi.org 



INCLUSION Living, working and learning in
the most integrated setting.

HUMAN RIGHTS Protection from abuse
and neglect in institutions and the community.

LIBERATION Defending people's rights to
move out of institutions and other segregated
settings and to be free of seclusion, restraint,
and unwarranted deprivations of liberty.

Protection and advocacy for people with disabilities



The Protection and Advocacy System for
People with Disabilities in Wisconsin

Protection and advocacy

Disability Rights Wisconsin is a statewide resource for individuals, families, service professionals and others concerned with disability issues. Designated by the Governor to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and system change, DRW is a private nonprofit that is part of a national system of federally mandated Protection and Advocacy agencies.

Disability Rights helps people across Wisconsin gain access to services and opportunity through its advocacy and legal expertise. We regularly challenge systems and society to create positive change and improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Disability Rights Wisconsin is governed by an independent Board of Directors, a majority of whom have a disability or have family members with a disability. The Board is also supported by a Mental Health Advisory Committee.

We support the right of each person to live in dignity, to work and to attend school in the mainstream of society. The agency also works on disability issues with state and local governments. In addition to annual federal appropriations for our Protection and Advocacy programs, Disability Rights Wisconsin receives financial support from individuals and private foundations and from training fees and government grants.

Advocacy action areas

Individual Advocacy We help people overcome barriers to independence and identify the right community support services. Disability Rights advocates work one-on-one with individuals to identify goals and achieve positive change.

Systems Advocacy We promote positive legislative policy and program initiatives. Disability Rights attorneys and advocates work at the state and county levels, and in coalition with other organizations to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Wisconsin. Our advocacy efforts serve people living in community settings, in state, county and private institutions, and in prisons and jails.

Training We provide informational training and other learning opportunities for consumers, family members, attorneys and others who support people in the disability community. Disability Rights trainers offer effective strategies to strengthen individual advocacy skills, improve the system's response to issues of access, broaden the understanding of disability rights and more.

Legal Support We take action that challenges rights violations related to identified priority issues for people with disabilities. Disability Rights attorneys bring the law to bear on issues of individual and systems advocacy. We address access, inclusion, dignity, most-integrated choices and equal rights issues.

Serving people with all disabilities

Disability Rights Wisconsin serves people of all ages, including people with developmental disabilities, people with mental illness, people with physical or sensory disabilities, and people with traumatic brain injury.

Disability Rights Wisconsin respects the cultural values and personal choices of those seeking our services. We value diversity in all aspects of our agency's operations.

Protection & Advocacy Division

Priority issues

- Abuse and neglect
- Patient & Resident rights
- Community Integration
- Long-term care
- Equal educational opportunity
- Voting rights
- Discrimination in employment and housing
- Barriers to accessibility
- Assistive technology
- Access to Community services, benefits & supports

Special Programs

- SSI Managed Care External Advocacy
- Medicare Part D Helpline
- Program Attorney services for Disability Benefit Specialists
- Family Care & IRIS Ombudsman

Three offices serving
the entire state.

