What is the Disability Law Center?

The Disability Law Center (DLC) is the Protection and Advocacy agency for Massachusetts. DLC is a private, non-profit organization responsible for providing protection and advocacy for the rights of Massachusetts residents with disabilities. DLC receives federal, state and private funding but is not part of the state or federal government.

www.dlc-ma.org

What happens when you call DLC with a question or problem?

- A support staff member will gather your contact information and ask you to briefly describe your question or problem.
- An Intake Paralegal will contact you and ask you to describe your question or legal problem in detail.
- The Intake Paralegal will consult with an attorney to review the issue according to DLC's case eligibility criteria.
- If DLC is able to assist you, an attorney will be assigned to your case. If we are not able to assist you, we will provide you with referrals to organizations and private attorneys who may be able to help you.

Our office is accessible and is open Monday through Friday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

DLC can make arrangements for sign language and foreign language interpreters or other accommodations that you may need.

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What can the Disability Law Center Do for You?

Who does DLC serve?
- People in Massachusetts who have physical, psychiatric, sensory or cognitive disabilities.
- Individuals who experience discrimination, abuse, neglect or denial of services because of their disability. DLC does not handle general legal problems such as criminal law, obtaining a divorce, filing for bankruptcy, or trust and estate issues.

What types of problems can DLC help with?
DLC investigates complaints of abuse and/or neglect. We also provide individual representation, training, policy advocacy and impact litigation. Listed below are some, but not all, of the services offered within these areas.

Access to Community Services
- Housing Discrimination
- Employment Discrimination

Community access to places of public accommodation and public services under the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Individuals moving from disability benefits to work
- Voting Rights
- Community Integration

Special Education
- Children who are out of school as a result of actions by the school district (relating to discipline, etc.)
- Rights of students with disabilities to transition services
- Abuse or neglect, including restraint or seclusion and also bullying of students with disabilities
- Students who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who are blind or have visual impairments, and need more specialized services or placements

Disability Benefits
- Certain issues for Social Security benefit recipients that prevent them from returning to work

Rights and Conditions in Facilities
- Appropriate treatment for people with psychiatric or cognitive and intellectual disabilities
- Abuse and neglect of people living in facilities
- Unlawful restraint or seclusion
- Human rights issues for people in facilities
- Prisoners with psychiatric disabilities who are in long term isolated confinement ("segregation")

Health Care
- Problems obtaining MassHealth coverage for services needed for community living