

THE P&A SYSTEM

AT WORK FOR OVER 50 YEARS



HISTORY

The nationwide **Protection & Advocacy system** was created in the 1970s in response to an exposé revealing abuse, neglect, and the lack of services and supports in state-run facilities at the **Willowbrook State School** in Staten Island, New York. Willowbrook was a state institution for people with **intellectual** and **developmental disabilities**.

Congress held hearings and concluded that the states were not capable of overseeing the service delivery system and established an **independent oversight system**. In 1975, through the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights (DD) Act, the first Protection and Advocacy program, **PADD**, was born (Protection and Advocacy for People with Developmental Disabilities).

Congress **authorized** the Protection & Advocacy system to **investigate** allegations of abuse & neglect and to advocate for the civil & legal rights of people with **disabilities**.

The Protection & Advocacy System



We were created
through
Congressional
authority



We are
independent,
nonpartisan
agencies



We are located
in every State
and Territory in
the US



We represent
people with
disabilities



We combine
investigative
oversight with
direct advocacy



Congress has
expanded the P&A
system over the last
50 years

FRAUD, WASTE & ABUSE



- We investigate **fraud** and **abuse** and provide direct advocacy to **eliminate** it.

- Our investigations uncover **waste** in our state systems and our advocacy **remedies** these failures.

- We **focus** on these goals with both **individual** and **systemic** approaches.

- We **target** the most effective **solutions** for the people we are serving.

CONGRESSIONAL MANDATES



Congress created the Protection and Advocacy System to **investigate** allegations of abuse and neglect, **educate** the public, and **advocate** for the civil and legal rights of people with disabilities.

ABUSE



We **investigate** and **uncover** negligent and abusive acts that may lead to serious harm and death and **advocate** to prevent future harm.

- **Direct care abuse & neglect**
- **Social Security benefit misuse**
- **Unlawful seclusion**
- **Improper physical & chemical restraint**
- **Unnecessary institutionalization**
- **Financial abuse**

FRAUD

Financial fraud is one of the fastest growing forms of abuse targeting **older Americans** and **people with disabilities**. Many are susceptible to fraudsters because they lack a meaningful understanding of their rights or how to report abuse.

We conduct over **200 financial reviews per year** and proactively deliver Know Your Rights trainings to raise awareness for those at the highest risk of exploitation.



As a result of our advocacy over the past 6 years, people with disabilities:

RECOUPED

SAVED

RECEIVED

\$1,812,592.86 in direct dollar benefit and **\$5,352,847.17** in lump sum dollar savings, with an additional **\$1,291,241.86** in monthly dollar savings.

WASTE



People with disabilities are often unnecessarily institutionalized at greater cost to taxpayers.

The cost of institutional care far exceeds the cost of services in the community. When people are unnecessarily institutionalized, **taxpayers** bear the burden of this **waste**. We have helped hundreds of people who were stuck in hospitals, nursing homes, and other institutions who want to return to their **communities**.

Taxpayers save an average cost of **\$7,400 per person per month** for those discharged from nursing facilities, and an average savings of **\$19,000 per person per month** for those discharged from hospitals, or intermediate care facilities to community-based services.

In the last six years, our advocacy has saved the taxpayers **\$1,210,602 a month**.

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