

The Advocacy Center is a non-profit corporation founded in 1978, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Advocacy Center is designated by the Governor of Louisiana to serve as the State's Protection & Advocacy System for persons with disabilities.

### ***Our Mission:***

The Advocacy Center protects, empowers, and advocates for the human and legal rights of people with disabilities and seniors living in Louisiana, in order that they may live an integrated life in the community, free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

### ***Who is Eligible?***

- Individuals with disabilities throughout Louisiana
- Nursing home residents
- Group home residents
- Individuals sixty years of age or older in Orleans, St. Tammany, and Plaquemine Parishes (Disability not required for assistance)

### ***Legal Representation***

The Advocacy Center represents clients in the following areas:

- Special Education
- Access
- Medicaid
- Employment/Rehabilitation
- Institutional Rights
- Community Integration
- Abuse and neglect
- Individual Rights Protection

### ***Advocacy Services***

AC works to improve systems that are used by people with disabilities and seniors through:

- Investigation of abuse and/or neglect
- Comments on legislation and rule-making
- Preparation of reports and "white papers"
- Media campaigns

### ***Education and Training***

AC provides education and training to individuals and groups in the following ways:

- Providing publications and information about resources
- Conducting trainings
- Participating on committees and task forces

### ***Opportunities for Legal Involvement with AC***

Act as co-counsel on impact litigation and individual cases in the following AC priority areas:

- Special Education
- ADA Access issues
- Housing discrimination
- Employment discrimination
- Damages cases against nursing homes, residential facilities, jails, prisons, and general discrimination on the basis of disability

Provide pro bono services for issues outside of our priorities, but which affect our clientele:

- Family law
- Bankruptcy
- Consumer law
- Medical malpractice
- Wills and successions

Technical Assistance on legal strategy

Provide mentoring of young attorneys in specific areas of law or procedure

As a non-profit agency providing much needed assistance to people with disabilities and seniors, the Advocacy Centers operates on a very limited budget. Consider supporting the important work we do through corporate sponsorship.

**Attorneys Are Needed To  
Assist Pro Bono with Adult  
Protective Services (APS)  
Cases!**

**The Facts:**

Adults with disabilities are one of the most abused, neglected, and exploited populations in our state. Over 6,800 cases of abuse involving vulnerable adults are reports in Louisiana each year.

**What is Adult Protective Services (APS)?**

APS protects adults who cannot protect themselves and who are harmed or threatened with harm through the action or inaction of themselves or other parties. This harm manifests itself as abuse, neglect, extortion, and/or exploitation.

When protecting vulnerable adults, APS must use least restrictive means such as medical treatment or social services. At times, these services are not enough and these individuals must be removed and placed into a safer living situation.

It is important to note that APS cannot provide protective services to individuals with the capacity to consent.

**The Need:**

APS uses a best interest analysis when providing services to the adults they seek to protect. Many times, these individuals do not want the protection offered by APS and need an attorney to advocate on their behalf.

Due to a lack of resources, AC needs the assistance of the private bar to provide pro bono services in this area. The need is great. Please consider giving a voice to these individuals by representing them in court.

## Contact the Advocacy Center

**Offices in:**

**New Orleans**

**8325 Oak Street  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
504-522-2337**

**Lafayette**

**600 Jefferson St. Ste. 812  
Lafayette, LA 70501  
337-237-7380**

**Baton Rouge**

**8225 Florida Blvd., Ste. A  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
225-925-8884**

[www.advocacyla.org](http://www.advocacyla.org)

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**Twitter: @advocacyla**



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*...Clearing the path  
to education,  
employment,  
housing, voting,  
health care, and  
community services  
for thousands of  
Louisianians over  
the age of sixty  
or who have a  
physical or  
mental disability.*