



State Protection & Advocacy Systems
<https://www.acl.gov/node/70>

The following quotes are taken from a webpage of the Administration for Community Living of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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“P&As are dedicated to the ongoing fight for the personal and civil rights of individuals with disabilities. P&As provide legal support to traditionally unserved or underserved populations to help them navigate the legal system to achieve resolution and encourage systems change. P&As ensure that individuals with disabilities are able to exercise their rights to make choices, contribute to society, and live independently.”

“They often provide information and referrals, as well as training and technical assistance to service providers, state legislators, and other policymakers. They also conduct self-advocacy training and raise public awareness of legal and social issues affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.”

“Under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and the Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act), each state and territory has a protection and advocacy system (P&A) designated by the state’s governor. The DD Act and other authorizing statutes, give the P&A authority to advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities. The DD Act states that each P&A must have the authority to “pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies or approaches to ensure the protection of, and advocacy for, the rights of such individuals within the State.” 42 U.S.C. 15043. P&As use a range of remedies to advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities, including self-advocacy assistance, negotiation and litigation.”

“Under the DD Act, P&As also have the authority to investigate abuse and neglect in any setting where a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities receives services.”

“The P&A serves short-term assistant, investigation/monitoring/technical assistant in self-advocacy, negotiation, mediation, litigation, and administrative hearings.”

Emphasis by underlining was added by Spectrum Institute.