

Disability Law Colorado's Protection and Advocacy Priorities

October 2023 – September 2024

Abuse and Neglect: DLC will work to ensure that individuals with disabilities are free from abuse and neglect, and live in healthier, safer, and respectful community settings or facilities (as appropriate). As part of this priority, DLC will ensure that policies and practices honor the dignity of their humanity.

Access to Treatment in Facilities: DLC will work with individuals with disabilities to ensure they are getting access to appropriate treatment without violation to their rights in facilities.

Community-Based Services in the Least Restrictive Settings: DLC will work to ensure that individuals with disabilities will have access to appropriate and individualized community-based services, which will enhance their ability to live in the least restrictive environment.

Decision-Making: DLC will work with individuals with disabilities to maintain their legal right to make decisions.

DVR and CILs: DLC will work with individuals with disabilities to ensure they have access to appropriate services through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Centers for Independent Living (CILs).

Education: DLC will work with youth with disabilities and relevant adult parties to ensure they are not removed from school, denied access to a free appropriate public education, or experience restraint and seclusion because of their disability-related behaviors. DLC will undertake action based on systemic issues identified in the state.

Employment: DLC will assist individuals with disabilities to ensure they have meaningful access to integrated employment, except for situations involving failure to hire or termination.

Enforcing Ongoing Settlements: DLC will engage in necessary action to ensure enforcement of ongoing settlement agreements or consent decrees.

Housing: DLC will work with individuals with disabilities to ensure they have available, accessible, affordable, and supportive housing, with a focus on housing authorities, people using Section 8 vouchers, and homeowners associations.

Monitoring: DLC will monitor places where individuals with disabilities receive services and access programming, with a specific focus on residential facilities, correctional settings, and polling places.

Representative Payees: DLC will conduct investigations of representative payees as directed by the Social Security Administration.

Transportation: DLC will assist individuals with disabilities who face barriers to accessible transportation.

Voting: DLC will educate individuals with disabilities, particularly those in and leaving facilities, about their right to vote and will provide information about registering to vote.

