



Disability Rights Center-NH

Karen Rosenberg, Policy Director

Introduction & History

- Willowbrook expose led to the creation of the Protection & Advocacy System (P&A)

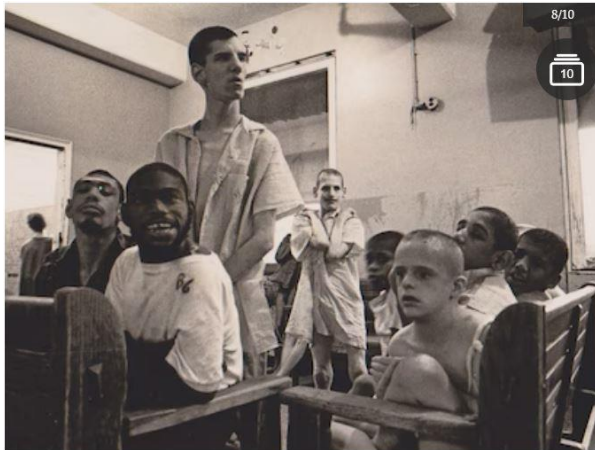


Photo by Eric Aerts



Geraldo Rivera, 1972



Photo by Eric Aerts

Legal Services

- Free consultation with an attorney
 - Legal advice
 - Self advocacy support
- Representation
- Administrative & court proceedings
- Class actions and systemic litigation



Eligibility

- NH resident
- Disability-related legal issues
- Statewide
- All ages
- Person with a disability
- Subject to Case Criteria:
drcnh.org/contact-us/what-we-do



Monitoring & Investigations

- Lakeview
- SYSC
- Group homes
- Residential schools
- Nursing homes
- Hospitals



Other Projects

- Beneficiaries of Social Security with Rep Payees
- Outreach & education
- Educating policy makers and policy advocacy
- Voting rights

Advocating for the Legal Rights of People with Disabilities



ASL Interpreter:
American Sign Language Interpreter

ADA:
Americans with Disabilities Act

CART:
Real-time captioning during an event

Language is Important:
Person-first language should be used unless an individual prefers identity-first language. Best guideline when referring to people with disabilities is to ASK.



Tips For Creating an Accessible Campaign



People With Disabilities Vote

One in five Americans, including nineteen percent of likely voters, experience a disability. They, along with their families, friends and allies, vote. Whether it be employment, education, mental health services, or housing policy, many issues directly affect the disability community. Voter turnout among people with disabilities increased by 8.5 points between the 2014 and 2018 elections. Making a campaign more accessible allows candidates to better engage with all voters, including this increasingly important constituency.

Staff Development and Disability Etiquette

- Train all staff on how to interact with people with disabilities: www.respectability.org/inclusion-toolkits/etiquette-interacting-with-people-with-disabilities/
- Hire people with disabilities to work on your campaign

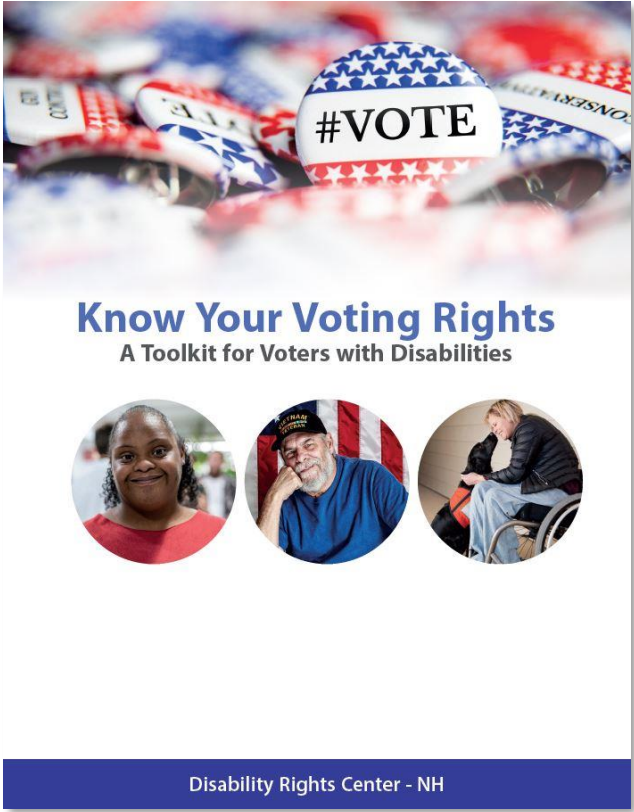
Campaign Materials

- Use appropriate disability language and inclusive images: <https://ncdj.org/style-guide/>
- Ensure all printed materials are accessible: color contrast, plain language, font size
- Ensure website & social media are digitally accessible: <https://wave.webaim.org/>
- Caption all videos and provide transcripts when possible

For more detailed information on creating an accessible campaign, we recommend including [People with Disabilities in Your Political Campaign: A Guide for Campaign Staff](#) from the National Council on Independent Living.

1-800-834-1721 | www.drcnh.org

Resources: drcnh.org



Know Your Voting Rights
A Toolkit for Voters with Disabilities

Disability Rights Center - NH

Toolkits



Know Your Employment Rights

A Video Series with Samuel Habib & Jen Eber

Videos

8 The Latest in Disability Research, Advocacy, Policy, and Practice

Disability Language Guide

There are two main ways to write about disability:

Example:

- Person-first: "A person with a disability"
- Identity-first: "A disabled person"

For many years, all three DRAPP organizations used person-first language as our default. However, in recognition of the growing use of identity-first language within the disability community, our organizations have shifted to a mix of both identity-first and person-first language.

The following list depicts phrases and terms that are generally considered appropriate, as well as terms and phrases to avoid. Please keep in mind that language is constantly evolving, and the best guideline when referring to people is to ask.

| PREFERRED | AVOID |
|---|--|
| accessible parking/accommodations | handicapped accessible |
| child/student with disabilities, disabled | special, special needs |
| individual without a disability | able-bodied, normal, whole |
| individual with a physical disability, disabled | crippled, lame, handicapped, deformed; defective, differently abled, handicapable, special needs |
| individual with a spinal cord injury or disability, disabled | quadriplegic, paraplegic, incapacitated |
| individual with or who has (e.g., multiple sclerosis, HIV, cerebral palsy, mental illness, stroke etc...) | suffers from, victim of (e.g., multiple sclerosis, HIV, cerebral palsy, mental illness, stroke etc...) |
| individual who uses a wheelchair | wheelchair-bound, confined to a wheelchair |
| blind or has low vision, vision impaired | visually impaired |
| deaf or hard of hearing | deaf and dumb, deaf-mute |
| individual of short stature, little person | dwarf or midget |
| individual with a cleft lip or cleft palate | hare lip |
| individual with epilepsy or a seizure disorder | Epileptic, spastic, person who has "fits" or "attacks" disorder |

Flyers

Priorities

- Abuse & neglect
- Restraint & seclusion in schools & institutions
- Access to home and community-based services
- Accessibility
- Education for students with disabilities
- Employment discrimination

Full list of priorities is available at: drcnh.org/about-us/priorities

Policy Priorities - General



DISABILITY RIGHTS
CENTER - NH

- Independent decision-making
- Full participation in the community
- Access to community-based education, services and supports
- Preventing abuse and/or neglect



Examples of Recent Policy Work

- 2021 Session – SB 134
 - Codifying supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship.
- 2022 Session – HB 1513 and SB 394
 - Raising the eligibility age for public education for students with disabilities to “21 inclusive” (day they turn 22).

Examples of Recent Policy Work Continued



- 2023 Session - HB 491 and SB 179
 - Amending NH law restricting use of restraint and seclusion of children (RSA 126-U) to make clear that prone restraint is prohibited and adding protections for children.
- 2024 Session – SB 463
 - Establishing a right to counsel for children in foster care placed/at risk of placement in institutions.

2025 Session – Budget Year

- Resources to implement bills passed in prior sessions (e.g. right to counsel for children)
- Resources for programs and services that enable people with disabilities to live successfully in their communities.



Stay Informed

- Monthly e-newsletters: drcnh.org/resources/publications-sign-up
- Visit our website at drcnh.org for information on a variety of issues relating to disability
- Reach out to us with questions





Questions or Ideas You Would Like to Discuss?

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