When Should I Call Protection and Advocacy?

Kentucky Protection and Advocacy (P&A) is the designated protection and advocacy system in Kentucky. P&A, an independent state agency, protects and promotes the rights of Kentuckians with disabilities through information and referral, technical assistance, education and training, and legal advocacy.

Who can call P&A?

Anyone with a disability-related issue or question can call P&A. You do not have to be receiving disability benefits or be a U.S. citizen to receive assistance.

What happens when I call P&A?

Everyone who contacts P&A is assigned to an advocate or attorney who will contact you within three (3) business days from the time you contacted our office. After hearing about your situation, the advocate or attorney will either 1) advise you on how to solve the problem you’re calling about, or 2) refer you to a person or agency who can further assist you, or 3) refer your situation to a P&A attorney supervisor to decide if P&A may represent you.

Does P&A represent everyone who contacts the office?

Unfortunately, P&A does not have the resources, including personnel, to represent everyone who contacts us. If you are a person with a disability and your rights have been violated due to your disability, P&A may assign an attorney or advocate to make phones calls and/or attend meetings on your behalf. These decisions are made on a case-by case- basis depending on current agency priorities.
When should I call P&A?

You should call P&A when you:

- Feel like you are not being treated fairly because of your disability
- Have trouble accessing goods/services needed to help with your disability
- Have trouble with Special Education in public schools
- Feel like you are not being treated fairly in a psychiatric hospital
- Want to know what your protected rights are in certain situations
- Want to know how to be an advocate for yourself
- Have received a denial for a requested accommodation
- Want to know how to protect your rights
- Want to know more about voting and polling place accessibility
- Want information on employment and keeping Social Security benefits
- Have issues regarding Medicaid Waivers
- Have questions about guardianship of adults with disabilities
- Have questions about services that may be available to you
- Have questions about a situation and don’t know where else to turn

P&A is not able to assist with the following issues or areas:

- Non-disability civil rights cases
- Divorce
- Child custody
- Getting certain benefits: Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits
- Criminal cases (although we can provide technical assistance to your attorney)