

**Disability Rights Wisconsin: Our Vision**

All persons with disabilities and their families shall be empowered to exercise and enjoy the full extent of their rights and to pursue the greatest possible quality of life.



**Our Core Values**

**DIVERSITY** Advocacy for people from all backgrounds in every part of Wisconsin.

**DIGNITY** Access to basic benefits and services.

**INDEPENDENCE** Autonomy and choice in individual life decisions.

**ACCESSIBILITY** Working for a barrier free society for everyone.

**INCLUSION** Living, working and learning in the most integrated setting.

**HUMAN RIGHTS** Protection from abuse and neglect in institutions and the community.

**LIBERATION** Defending people's rights to move out of institutions and other segregated settings and to be free of seclusion, restraint, and unwarranted deprivations of liberty.

**Madison**

131 W. Wilson St., Suite 700  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-267-0214  
Fax 608-267-0368

**Milwaukee**

6737 W. Washington St., Suite 3230  
Milwaukee, WI 53214  
414-773-4646  
Fax 414-773-4647

**Rice Lake**

217 West Knapp Street  
Rice Lake, WI 54868  
715-736-1232  
Fax 715-736-1252

**Toll Free for all offices: 800-928-8778**

for persons with disabilities and their families

**Statewide Drug Benefit  
Medicare Part D Help line**

Toll Free 800-926-4862

Tenemos empleados quienes hablan español. Language translation on the phone provided for non-English speakers.

Alternative formats of this brochure available upon request; contact 800-928-8778.

disabilityrightswi.org

**Protection and advocacy for people with disabilities**



**The Protection and Advocacy System for People with Disabilities in Wisconsin**

## Protection and advocacy

Disability Rights Wisconsin is a statewide resource for individuals, families, service professionals and others concerned with disability issues. Designated by the Governor to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and system change, DRW is a private nonprofit that is part of a national system of federally mandated Protection and Advocacy agencies.

Disability Rights helps people across Wisconsin gain access to services and opportunity through its advocacy and legal expertise. We regularly challenge systems and society to create positive change and improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Disability Rights Wisconsin is governed by an independent Board of Directors, a majority of whom have a disability or have family members with a disability. The Board is also supported by a Mental Health Advisory Committee.

We support the right of each person to live in dignity, to work and to attend school in the mainstream of society. The agency also works on disability issues with state and local governments. In addition to annual federal appropriations for our Protection and Advocacy programs, Disability Rights Wisconsin receives financial support from individuals and private foundations and from training fees and government grants.

## Advocacy action areas

**Individual Advocacy** We help people overcome barriers to independence and identify the right community support services. Disability Rights advocates work one-on-one with individuals to identify goals and achieve positive change.

**Systems Advocacy** We promote positive legislative policy and program initiatives. Disability Rights attorneys and advocates work at the state and county levels, and in coalition with other organizations to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Wisconsin. Our advocacy efforts serve people living in community settings, in state, county and private institutions, and in prisons and jails.

**Training** We provide informational training and other learning opportunities for consumers, family members, attorneys and others who support people in the disability community. Disability Rights trainers offer effective strategies to strengthen individual advocacy skills, improve the system's response to issues of access, broaden the understanding of disability rights and more.

**Legal Support** We take action that challenges rights violations related to identified priority issues for people with disabilities. Disability Rights attorneys bring the law to bear on issues of individual and systems advocacy. We address access, inclusion, dignity, most-integrated choices and equal rights issues.

## Serving people with all disabilities

Disability Rights Wisconsin serves people of all ages, including people with developmental disabilities, people with mental illness, people with physical or sensory disabilities, and people with traumatic brain injury.

Disability Rights Wisconsin respects the cultural values and personal choices of those seeking our services. We value diversity in all aspects of our agency's operations.

### Protection & Advocacy Division Priority issues

- Abuse and neglect
- Patient & Resident rights
- Community Integration
- Long-term care
- Equal educational opportunity
- Voting rights
- Discrimination in employment and housing
- Barriers to accessibility
- Assistive technology
- Access to Community services, benefits & supports

### Special Programs

- SSI Managed Care External Advocacy
- Medicare Part D Helpline
- Program Attorney services for Disability Benefit Specialists
- Family Care & IRIS Ombudsman

Three offices serving  
the entire state.



## Contact us for help

Disability Rights Wisconsin has offices in Madison, Milwaukee and Rice Lake. Call the one nearest to you. Advocacy services are free.

**Madison** 608-267-0214

**Milwaukee** 414-773-4646

**Rice Lake** 715-736-1232

**Toll free for all offices: 800-928-8778**

for persons with disabilities and their families

### Statewide Drug Benefit

**Medicare Part D Help line** Toll Free 800-926-4862

An Intake Specialist will ask about your concern. If your concern is an identified priority issue (see list at left), a DRW staff member will discuss with you if we can help with: information and referral; advice and guidance in self-advocacy; investigating, negotiating or mediating on your behalf, or representing you in legal proceedings.

Disability Rights Wisconsin does not provide legal assistance for bankruptcies, traffic tickets, criminal cases or family law issues like child custody, child support or divorce.

We provide reasonable accommodations upon request.

Tenemos empleados que hablan español. Language translation on the phone provided for non-English speakers.