Disability Rights WISCONSIN

Proposed Priorities and Objectives for Protection and Advocacy

October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

Public Comment

Disability Rights Wisconsin wants to know what you think about our goals and priorities.

If you would like to share your feedback, please submit your comments in an email with subject line, "P&A Goals and Priorities", to courtneyj@drwi.org by **December 24, 2026.**

PRIORITY 1: Prevent and Address Abuse, Neglect, and Serious Rights Violations

- Protect against abuse, neglect, and rights violations in living environments.
- Investigate and monitor facility abuse, neglect, and deaths to report findings and recommend systemic policy changes.
- Monitor living environments to identify abuse, report violations, and drive systemic improvements.
- Collaborate with regulatory and partner agencies to strengthen oversight and prevention of abuse and neglect.
- Provide training to prevent and recognize abuse, neglect, and serious rights violations.
- Advocate through public policy, committee collaboration, and strategic communications to minimize abuse and neglect risks.

1-800-928-8778 Toll Free | 1-833-635-1968 Fax
info@drwi.org
disabilityrightswi.org
Serving the state of Wisconsin with offices in Madison and Milwaukee.

PRIORITY 2: Community-Based Services in the Most Integrated Setting

- Provide systemic and direct advocacy to overcome service barriers, prevent unsafe discharges, and support transitions to the least restrictive environments.
- Participate in facility transition planning to protect residents' rights and support moves to the most integrated setting.
- Advocate for improved community and mental health services through policy, legal, and systemic initiatives.
- Provide trainings and self-advocacy resources to remove barriers, promote rights, and expand access to community services.

PRIORITY 3: Equal Access and Reasonable Accommodations

- Provide direct and self-advocacy support to combat discrimination and protect rights in employment, housing, transportation, and healthcare.
- Provide legal representation in severe cases or cases likely to result in systemic improvement.
- Advocate for policy, legal, and system changes that address discrimination and improve access.
- Provide training and maintain self-advocacy resources on antidiscrimination laws, reasonable accommodations, and equal access.
- Provide information and resources on access and accommodations in public spaces.
- Integrated employment by resolving workplace accommodations, discrimination, vocational rehabilitation, and transportation barriers.
- Support SSI / SSDI beneficiaries in securing and maintaining integrated employment by resolving workplace accommodations, discrimination, vocational rehabilitation, and transportation barriers.

PRIORITY 4: Equal Rights and Treatment in the Criminal Legal System

- Provide advocacy and representation to address severe abuse, neglect, and discrimination while ensuring appropriate treatment and accommodations in correctional and forensic mental health environments.
- Investigate deaths in correctional or forensic facilities when abuse, neglect, or inadequate treatment may have contributed.
- Conduct systems advocacy and engage correctional, health, and juvenile justice leaders to improve treatment, reduce isolation, address discrimination, and ensure disability needs are considered.

PRIORITY 5: Access to Appropriate Education in Inclusive Settings

- Provide advocacy and legal representation to address school exclusion, severe abuse, inappropriate discipline, and transition planning while securing needed assistive technology.
- Provide training for students, families, and collaborators on special education and student rights.
- Conduct systems advocacy on widespread or systemic education concerns identified through individual casework.

PRIORITY 6: Accessible Voting and Full Electoral Participation

- Provide advocacy and education on voter registration, accessible voting, and voting rights.
- Conduct systems advocacy and partnerships to improve election accessibility and remove barriers to voting.