

NAVIGATING SSA POLICIES WITH P&A VALUES

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Philosophy That Guides P&A Work

- People with disabilities are full and equal persons under the law and are entitled to equal access to the opportunities afforded to all members of American society.
- People with disabilities are entitled to be free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, discrimination, and isolation, and to be treated with respect and dignity.

Philosophy cont.

- People with disabilities have access to age appropriate services and supports that are shaped by the unique needs and preferences of each individual. Such service and supports are designed to foster independent, productive and integrated community life.
- People with disabilities have the right to make choices about all aspects of their life including daily routines and major life events.

Multiple Strategies to Promote Rights Enforcement, Independence & Inclusion

- Establish, expand, protect, and insure enforcement of the human, legal and civil rights of people with disabilities.
- Recognize and promote the right to an array of appropriate services and supports.
- Focus on maximization of independence, autonomy, productivity, and integration of individuals with disabilities.
- Address the human, legal, and civil rights of individuals and groups of individuals with disabilities in conformance with P&A priorities.
- Employ multiple means of action and redress, such as individual and class representation, legislative and other systemic advocacy, training, and consumer education.

Values to Guide Our Work

- People with disabilities are included in all activities undertaken by the P&A.
- P&As work zealously to protect and advocate for their clients and people with disabilities in their state.
- Boards of Directors, PAIMI Councils and P&A services reflect the diverse cultural, ethnic, racial, and disability diversity in their state.

Duties Comparison

SSA Must Ensure:

- Funds utilized for beneficiaries' needs
- Payees are meeting SSA guidelines
- Payees are reporting all changes as required
- Payees have sound accounting/money management practices
- Payees are completing annual accounting forms

P&As Must Ensure:

- Beneficiaries are free from abuse, neglect, exploitation
- Beneficiaries are free from rights violations
- Resource needs of beneficiaries are referred to appropriate entities
- Beneficiaries and payees are aware of P&A network
- Reviews are meeting requirements within SPSSB/BPD