

Know Your Laws, Rights, & Responsibilities

LAWS CAN PROVIDE PROTECTION AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

If you are a parent of a child with a disability, it is important to have knowledge and understanding of the laws that provide protections, rights, and services to your child within education, public services, and throughout their life. This tip sheet will provide you with basic information about laws that provide support, services, or access for your child in various environments including educational settings and within communities.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law ensuring services to children with disabilities throughout the nation. IDEA governs how Alabama and all states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. Infants and toddlers with disabilities (birth-2) and their families receive early intervention services under IDEA Part C. Children and youth (ages 3-21) receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B.

ALABAMA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (AAC)

The Alabama Administrative Code (AAC) is Alabama's law that ensures that Alabama's children with qualifying disabilities receive special education

and related services as guaranteed under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADAA) is the most comprehensive federal civil rights law protecting the rights of people with disabilities. It provides protections ensuring access to employment, state and local government programs and services, and telecommunications. It also requires that public spaces, businesses, and transportation be accessible to people with disabilities.

REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal law, divided into sections, that provides protections and services for people with disabilities. The following list describes the sections and supports provided by the Act:

- **Section 501** provides protections against discrimination in hiring practices,
- **Section 502** created the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) to enforce standards set by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968,
- **Section 503** prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of physical or mental disability by businesses with federal contracts or their subcontractors,
- **Section 504** prohibits discrimination on the basis of physical or mental disability in programs receiving federal funds,



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- **Section 508** addresses issues related to access to communication and computer technology.

In addition, Amendments of 1978 to the Rehabilitation Act also provided:

- **Title VII** comprehensive services for independent living such as information and referral, job counseling, job placement, health, education, recreation, and social services,
- **Centers for Independent Living**, are community-based, cross disability, non-residential private nonprofit agencies designed and operated by people with disabilities providing an array of independent living services,
- **Independent Living Services** for older, blind individuals,
- **Protection and Advocacy** of Individual Rights, a system in each state designed to protect the legal and human rights of individuals with disabilities, and also
- **Vocational rehabilitation service** grants to Native American tribes.

significant barriers to employment into high quality jobs and careers and helps employers to hire and retain skilled workers. WIOA's Title IV amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are the largest of Federal programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities. These two programs are different but provide supplemental funds to individuals with disabilities who meet medical criteria and qualify for benefits under these programs.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) pays benefits to you, the individual, and certain members of your family if you are "insured" meaning that you have worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) pays benefits to individuals based on financial need.

THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITIES ACT (WIOA)

WIOA is a federal law that ensures that the nation's public workforce development system is strengthened. This law's specific focus is to provide services that support individuals with significant barriers to employment including individuals with disabilities. This law provides services and supports to help place individuals with

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

This federal law provides that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of, and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence,



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productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of community life. This law established that each state have a Council that oversees these activities within each state.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Stakeholder opinion is very important to our center. Please take a few moments to tell us what you think by completing a short survey about this tip sheet or other services of the AL PTI.


<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ALPTI>



APEC IS HERE TO HELP

APEC's AL PTI provides free training, information, and consultation to families, schools, and communities. Visit our training calendar for more information about learning opportunities at www.alabamaparentcenter.com or call our center for personal help and consultation. The contents of this publication were developed in part under a grant from the US Department of Education, #H328M150012. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer: Kristen Rhoads. Special Education V.30 Know Laws Rights & Responsibilities



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