

UNIVERSITY LEGAL
Protection & Advocacy Program



SERVICES
for the District of Columbia

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness
Fact Sheet

Since 1996, University Legal Services ("ULS") has been the Protection and Advocacy ("P&A") Program for Individuals with Disabilities in the District of Columbia. ULS is an independent non-profit organization that is not affiliated with the Department of Mental Health or any other city agency.

As the P&A, ULS engages in a variety of activities to protect and advocate the rights of individuals with mental illness, including: individual representation; institutional reform litigation ("class action" cases); community outreach and education; investigation of abuse and neglect; and policy work. All services are provided free-of-charge to eligible consumers, according to ULS' annual priorities.

ULS believes in the dignity of all individuals, regardless of their diagnosis.

ULS believes that consumers of mental health services should be able to live and receive treatment and services in the community.

ULS believes that consumers should direct their care and treatment, and should be given choices – about treatment, housing, providers, medication, etc.

ULS may be able to assist you with:

- . Filing a grievance;
- . Developing comprehensive and individualized treatment and discharge plans;
- . Investigating abuse and neglect; and
- . Teaching about consumer choice and consumer rights.

ULS also has special legal authority to access facilities, consumers and records for the purpose of conducting independent investigations to prevent and redress abuse, neglect and rights violations.

For more information or to complete an intake, call ULS at (202) 547-0198

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