

**State of New Jersey
Office of the Ombudsman
for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities
and Their Families**



“The work of our office is driven by the understanding that while many of us have special needs, all of us – each and every single one of us – has special gifts and that we all deserve the opportunity to be safe, to be healthy and to reach our full potential.”

Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman

www.disabilityombudsman.nj.gov

609.984.7764

Our History & Purpose

The Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families was established by the State Legislature in December 2017 to serve individuals and their families – to help make sure that they get the services and supports they need and deserve.

Signed into law by Governor Chris Christie in January 2018, the Office was made operational when Governor Phil Murphy appointed the first Ombudsman a few months later.

The legislation creating the Office outlines specific responsibilities, which can be grouped into three categories:

- Assisting individuals and families to navigate New Jersey's system of care to get the services and supports they need and deserve.
- Working with individuals and families to identify opportunities for improving the system.
- Helping to ensure that the voice of individuals and families is heard in a meaningful way in decisions that directly affect them as well as in larger policy discussions.



Our Mission & Approach

As a relatively new office, we have taken great care to develop our office in a way that provides a “value added” to the work of our colleagues throughout New Jersey’s system of care and to the lives of the people we serve. Sometimes as advisors. Sometimes as advocates. Always as partners and resources, often sharing information between those who staff our system of care and those who depend on it. And realizing the importance of a personal touch - particularly with human service issues - we spend as much time as possible working one-on-one with individuals and families and, whenever possible, visiting with them where they live, learn, work and socialize.



We work directly with and for people with disabilities and their families.

Listening to their concerns... Responding to their questions...

Advising ... Coaching ... Collaborating ...

Working to ensure that their voices are heard.



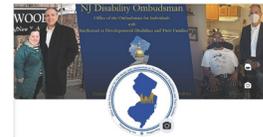
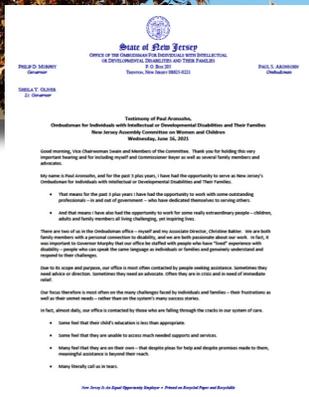
We highlight issues important to people with disabilities and their families.

In annual reports... In legislative testimony... In the media and on our website...

In conversations with other government officials.



Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families



NJ Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities

OPINION

Americans with disabilities must have their voices heard

Americans with disabilities must have their voices heard. The report is dedicated to the many extraordinary people with and for whom we serve... The thousands of New Jerseyans with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families. We hear you.

We connect people to the supports and services they need and deserve.

At all levels of government... In all parts of the State...

Children ... Adults ... Families..

We support people with disabilities and their families on a full range of issues.

Adult Services • Children’s Services • Civil Rights

Education • Employment • Federal Policies

Health & Safety • Housing • Legal Matters

Public Safety • State Policies • Transportation



2019 Annual Report
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Ombudsman's 2019 A



Please don't hesitate to contact us.

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