




The task of the Committees is a critical one if the rights of all Arizona citizens are to be respected.

Need more information?


Contact the Division of Developmental Disabilities at **844-770-9500** or visit <http://www.azdes.gov/ddd/>

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC SECURITY
Division of Developmental Disabilities

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC SECURITY

Division of Developmental Disabilities



Independent Oversight Committees

Volunteers dedicated to protecting the rights of persons with developmental disabilities

www.azdes.gov/ddd

What are Independent Oversight Committees?

Independent Oversight Committees (IOC) are groups of local citizens who provide independent oversight in matters related to the rights of people with developmental disabilities supported by the Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Independent Oversight Committees are created by law (Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-3801 and 41-3804) to protect the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. Committees are currently located throughout the state.

Who serves on Independent Oversight Committees?

Members are volunteers. They may include people who receive supports and their families, advocates, psychologists, physicians, nurses, attorneys, social workers, teachers, business people, and other community members committed to the rights of the people served by the Division.

Members are recommended by local Independent Oversight Committees, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, and appointed by the Director of the Department of Economic Security or designee. Persons interested in serving on a Committee, can call 844-770-9500.

What do Independent Oversight Committees do?

Committees usually meet once a month to:

- Review any incidents that may have involved neglect, abuse or denial of rights of members receiving services.
- Review behavior programs which involve the use of behavior modifying medications or aversive techniques.
- Review any proposed research involving members receiving services.
- Make recommendations to DDD about changes needed to protect the rights of members receiving services.

What experience or training do Independent Oversight Committee members need?

No particular background is required, just a sincere interest in the rights of all Arizona residents. Training is provided to prepare new members, and all members receive ongoing training to keep them up to date on important issues.

What kinds of issues should be raised to the Independent Oversight Committees?

Any suspected abuse, neglect or violation of the rights of a person with developmental disabilities may be identified to one of the Independent Oversight Committees. This may include mistreatment or discrimination. If the Independent Oversight Committee is not the best group to handle the concern, the person raising a concern will be referred to the appropriate agency.

Who can raise an issue to the Independent Oversight Committees?

Anyone can contact the IOC regarding possible abuse, neglect and violation of human rights of an individual with developmental disabilities.

Contact the Division at 844-770-9500 for the name of the Independent Oversight Committee chairperson. Concerns will be handled in a confidential manner in accordance with state and federal laws.

What are some of the challenges that the Independent Oversight Committees have addressed?

In addition to dealing with a wide variety of individual issues, Independent Oversight Committees have been involved with many policy issues which relate to rights. These issues have ranged from matters of health and safety to personal power and choice. The Committee makes recommendations for action and raises awareness of the rights of people with developmental disabilities.