

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

## Where can I get more information?

Contact the Division of Developmental Disabilities at 1-844-770-9500 or visit <http://www.azdes.gov/ddd/>

### DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

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PAD-529 (8-17)



# Human

# Rights

# Committees

Volunteers Dedicated to  
Protecting The Rights of Persons  
with Developmental Disabilities

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES

[www.azdes.gov/ddd](http://www.azdes.gov/ddd)

## What are Human Rights Committees?

Human Rights Committees (HRC) are groups of local citizens who provide independent oversight in matters related to the rights of people with developmental disabilities who are supported by the Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Developmental Disabilities. Human Rights 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 Human Rights 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 Human Rights 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, should call 1-844-770-9500.

## What do Human Rights 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 Human Rights 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 Human Rights Committees?

Any suspected abuse, neglect or violation of the rights of a person with developmental disabilities may be identified to one of the Human Rights Committees. This may include

mistreatment or discrimination.

If the Human Rights Committee is not the best group to handle the concern, you will be referred to the appropriate agency.

## Who can raise an issue to the Human Rights Committees?

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

Contact the Division at 1-844-770-9500 for the name of the Human Rights 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 Human Rights Committees have addressed?

In addition to dealing with a wide variety of individual issues, Human Rights 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.