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### MISSOURI PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

[Missouri Protection and Advocacy \(MO P&A\)](#) is an organization, established through Federal mandate, to provide advocacy services for people with developmental disabilities and mental health issues. Funded through the National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems (NAPAS), MO P&A provides eight programs providing legal based advocacy for Missouri's citizens with developmental and mental health disabilities.

Those programs include:

1. **Special Education**-this program provides support parents of children and adults who receive special education services. Legal advocacy to ensure rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
2. **Protection & Advocacy for people with developmental disabilities (PADD)**-to ensure rights under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights (DD) Act of 1975. This program provides legal, administrative, and other remedies under federal and state laws.
3. **Client Assistance Program (CAP)**-ensures rights under the 1984 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act. As Missouri receives federal allotments under this act, a Client Assistance Program must be provided.
4. **Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI)**-funded through the National Center for Mental Health Services, this program provides protection of rights and investigates reports of abuse and neglect of individuals with mental illness.
5. **Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR)**-protects and advocates for the legal and human rights of persons with disabilities. This program is funded at a lower level than programs noted above, though is noted as a critical component of the MO P&A program.
6. **Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)**-protects rights under the 1994 Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act (Tech Act).
7. **Protection and Advocacy of Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)**-the primary focus of this program is to protect the right of persons with disabilities who receive Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)/Supplement Security Income (SSI) benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and who wish to return to work or be employed.
8. **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**-funded through a Federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, this program legal rights advocacy to people with TBI and their families, with particular emphasis on self-advocacy.

### **Support Coordinators (Formally Known as Service Coordinators) Responsibility**

Support Coordinators (SC) should have a working knowledge of all programs available to individuals that provide advocacy services. For MO P&A, the support coordinator's role is two fold. First, SCs should be prepared to provide information regarding MO P&A services to any individual. This should take the form of providing general resources for advocacy when meeting new individuals, providing information at yearly support plan meetings, or encouraging individuals and their families to contact MO P&A regarding specific issues that arise in their life for which MO P&A may be able to help.