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# CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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## A. What Laws and Policies Protect Individuals with Disabilities?

There are a multitude of laws intended to protect individuals with disabilities. Although not an exhaustive list, some of these laws include:

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) [20 U.S.C. § 1400, et. seq.](#);
- The Fair Housing Act [42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.](#); and
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) [42 U.S. Code § 12101 et seq.](#)

Additionally, various services and programs that directly impact individuals with disabilities include: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Social Security benefits, and special education.

CPS Developmental Disability Specialists are the main point of contact for serving children with disabilities in the child welfare system. Responsibilities for the Developmental Disability Specialist are outlined in the CPS Policy Handbook Section 6411.31 available online at [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS\\_pg\\_6400.asp#CPS\\_6411\\_31](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_6400.asp#CPS_6411_31).

CPS also has a policy dealing with Preparation for Long-Term Care or Support in Adulthood for Youth with Disabilities found at Section 10340 of the CPS Policy Handbook available online at [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS\\_pg\\_x10300.asp#CPS\\_10340](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_x10300.asp#CPS_10340).

## B. What Resources are Available?

- Disability Rights Texas provides legal representation and advocacy for individuals with disabilities: <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/en/home/>.
- EveryChild Inc. helps facilitate access to Home and Community-based Services Medicaid Waiver services and supports. [www.everychildtexas.org](http://www.everychildtexas.org).
- Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities (LIDDA) support children in crisis. For more information, see <https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/search.cfm>.
- Navigate Life Texas is a website developed by Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to explain resources for families with children who have disabilities and special healthcare needs. Available online at <https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en>.
- The HHSC Disability webpage also includes resources and information: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability>.