
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

A. What Laws and Policies Protect Individuals with Disabilities?

There are a multitude of federal laws intended to protect individuals with disabilities. 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, there are various services and programs that directly impact individuals with disabilities, some of which are the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Social Security benefits, and special education.

DFPS Developmental Disability Specialists are the main point of contact for information about serving children with disabilities in the child welfare system. Responsibilities for the Developmental Disability Specialist are outlined in the [CPS Policy Handbook § 6411.31](#).⁹⁴

DFPS also has a policy dealing with Preparation for Long-Term Care or Support in Adulthood for Youth with Disabilities found in the [CPS Policy Handbook § 10340](#).⁹⁵

B. What Resources are Available?

- [Disability Rights Texas](#) provides legal representation and advocacy for individuals with disabilities.⁹⁶
- [EveryChild Inc.](#) provides assistance and support for children with disabilities to reside in a family setting.⁹⁷
- Texas Health and Human Services [Disability webpage](#) includes disability-related resources and information.⁹⁸
- [Home and Community-Based Services](#) (HCS) is a Medicaid waiver program that provides services and support for individuals with intellectual disabilities.⁹⁹
- Judicial Commission on Mental Health [Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book](#) is a procedural guide for Texas judges hearing cases regarding persons with mental illness and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).¹⁰⁰
- Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities (LIDDA) support children in crisis. Local LIDDA contacts are available on the Texas Health and Human Services [Contact HHS webpage](#).¹⁰¹
- [Navigate Life Texas](#) is a website developed by HHS to explain resources for families with children who have disabilities and special healthcare needs.¹⁰²