

Before Contacting PAAT You Can Try Self-Advocacy

Self-Advocacy Tips:

- Believe in yourself and know your rights
- Become familiar with the different services that exist to help protect your rights
- Get all of the facts
- Discuss your concerns with those involved
- Use your communication skills
- Use the chain of command
- Keep written records of what is said to you and by whom
- Keep all paperwork that is given to you
- Know your appeal rights
- Be assertive and persistent
- Follow up

How to Request Help:

To request help from Disability Rights Montana, call and visit with one of our advocacy specialists. If an advocate is unavailable, your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

You can also fill out an intake form on our website.

Education and Training:

Disability Rights Montana is available to conduct training seminars, please call for more information.

disability **rights**
montana

1022 Chestnut Street
Helena, Montana 59601-0820

Voice/TDD: 406-449-2344

Toll Free: 800-245-4743

Fax: 406-449-2418

advocate@disabilityrightsmt.org

www.disabilityrightsmt.org

Disability Rights Montana's services are free and confidential.

Disability Rights Montana protects and advocates for the human, legal and civil rights of Montanans with disabilities while advancing dignity, equality and self-determination.

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Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology

The PAAT program assists individuals with disabilities in obtaining assistive technology devices and services.

What is PAAT?

The Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) program was created in 1994 when Congress expanded the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act.

What Can PAAT do?

Disability Rights Montana can assist individuals with disabilities in the acquisition, utilization, or maintenance of assistive technology (AT) devices or AT services through case management, legal representation, and self-advocacy training.

What is Considered an AT Device and Service?

According to the Assistive Technology Act, "The term 'assistive technology device' means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities."

Furthermore, "The term 'assistive technology service' means any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device."

AT Devices Can Assist with Any Type of Impairment. The following are examples:

Mobility - wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, ramps, specialty strollers, specialty beds and furniture, hydraulic lifts, and environmental control devices

Communication - computers, tablets, and smart phones with added software or apps that function as speech generating devices

Hearing - audio loops, CART interventions, dictation phone apps and cochlear implants

Vision - computers, tablets, and smart phones with added software or apps allowing voice dictation or voice output to navigate a range of environments or read various printed materials

Memory/Cognition - computers, tablets, and smart phones with added software or apps

AT Services Include the Following:

- Evaluating an individual's ability to use one or more types of AT-related devices and determining which special adaptations may be needed
- Training individuals, family members, school professionals, or employers on how to use an AT-related device
- Repairing existing AT devices

Resources:

Montana Vocational Rehabilitation & Blind Services

1-406-444-2590 (V/TTY)
1-877-296-1197 (toll-free)

Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow

1-406-245-1225 (V/TTY)
1-800-669-6319 (toll-free)

Montana Independent Living Project

1-406-442-5755 (V/TTY)
1-800-735-6457 (toll-free)

North Central Independent Living Services

1-406-452-9834 (V/TTY)
1-800-823-6245 (toll-free)

Summit Independent Living Center

1-406-728-1630 (V/TTY)
1-800-398-9002 (toll-free)

Rural Institute-MonTECH Program

1-406-243-5751 (Missoula)
1-877-243-5511 (Missoula) (toll-free)
1-406-657-2089 (Billings)

The Montana Telecommunications Access Program (MTAP)

1 (800) 833-8503 (V/TTY)