VOICES FOR CHANGE

Parental Rights for People with Paralysis Toolkit

CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION
TODAY'S CARE. TOMORROW'S CURE.®

Credits:

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Facts on Parenting with a Disability

There are

4.1 million

parents with disabilities in the U.S.

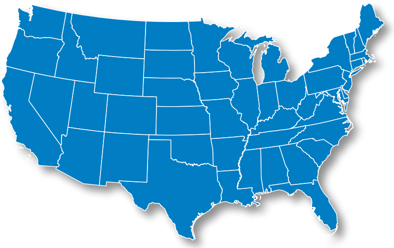
1 IN 10

children have
a parent with
a disability

42

states include
disability as grounds
for termination
of parental rights

2/3 of dependency statutes allow the court to determine that a parent is unfit on the basis of disability



In every state,

disability of the parent can be included in determining the best interest of the child

5.4 million

Americans live with paralysis due to:

- Stroke
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Neurofibromatosis
- Cerebral Palsy
- Post-Polio Syndrome
- Other

DC, GA, KS, LA, MD, MS, ND, NM, OH, OK, & WI

allow physical disability as the sole grounds for terminating parental rights, even without evidence of abuse or neglect

INTRODUCTION

More than 4 million parents with disabilities are raising children under the age of 18 in the United States. Like most mothers and fathers, they are preoccupied with the business of life: first steps and soccer games, scraped knees and senior proms, laughter and tears and triumphs. Living with a disability changes the details of their days, but not their ability to love and care for their children.

Yet, despite decades of progress in civil rights legislation, parents with disabilities face widespread discrimination in their efforts to both build and maintain a family. They encounter barriers accessing reproductive healthcare such as IVF treatments. They are more likely to be reported for abuse than other parents and to lose custody of their children in divorce proceedings. And they are more likely to permanently lose parental rights.

In 2012, a groundbreaking report from the National Council on Disability documented the discrimination and sparked a national reckoning. Disability advocates across the country harnessed media coverage to fight for new legal supports for families. The Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services launched new efforts to prevent discriminatory practices and enforce violations. States across the country slowly began adopting legislation strengthening parental rights.

Unfortunately, too many families continue to encounter barriers and biased treatment. It is therefore critical for parents and prospective parents with disabilities to be aware of their rights.

This booklet is designed to provide an overview of how disability laws apply to families, with particular attention given to the child welfare system, adoption and custody issues, and reproductive healthcare rights. Understanding what these laws mean will help parents with disabilities not only build the families they want but protect their fundamental right to raise and care for them, too.

DISABILITY LAW

In the last half century, two groundbreaking federal laws have transformed the lives of people with disabilities.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibited discrimination against people with disabilities by federal agencies, and any programs or activities that receive federal funding. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), passed in 1990, extended this protection to state and local government activities, as well as to private entities.

The widespread changes brought by the legislation, from curb cuts and accessible buses to entry ramps and workplace accommodations, helped remove barriers that once prevented people with disabilities from pursuing independent and fulfilling lives.

These laws – which apply to public and private adoption agencies, reproductive healthcare facilities, and the child welfare system (including child protective services and family courts) - have also provided a framework to protect the rights of parents with disabilities and their families.

Under Title II of the ADA, all public entities, including courts and social service agencies, must:

- Provide an equal opportunity to participate in programs, services, or activities and make reasonable modifications to policies, practices or procedures
- Provide auxiliary aids and services when necessary to ensure effective communication
- Not deny benefits of program, activities, and services by being inaccessible. Services, programs, and activities must be readily accessible to, and useable by, people with disabilities

Under Title III of the ADA, private entities, including attorneys' offices, private adoption agencies, and parenting evaluators must:

- Make reasonable accommodations to ensure that people with disabilities have access to their goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations;
- Ensure that no person with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise treated differently because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services

Under Section 504 of the Rehab Act, discrimination against people with disabilities is prohibited across federally funded child welfare agencies and programs, including non-governmental entities such as contracted child welfare evaluators and private adoption agencies.

Significant updates made to both the ADA and the Rehab Act since their passage have specifically addressed the discrimination and barriers faced by parents with disabilities.

In August 2015, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued new technical assistance to help states protect the welfare of children without violating the civil rights of parents and prospective parents living with disabilities. The new guidance outlined the requirements of Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and their specific application to the child welfare system and family courts. It also required that parents with disabilities be given the same opportunities to participate in and benefit from programs, services, and activities that are provided to parents without disabilities.

But most significantly, the guidance emphasized that all agencies must provide “individualized treatment” and “full and equal opportunities” to parents with disabilities. In practice, this means reviewing issues on a case-by-case basis using facts gathered through an individualized assessment – and not false assumptions or stereotypes that people with disabilities are incapable of being parents.

In 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights issued a final rule to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act that provides detailed new requirements for child welfare programs and activities to explicitly prevent discrimination against parents with disabilities. The updates, which mirror language in Title II of the ADA, require that any evaluation of parenting ability must be conducted by a qualified professional and be based on evidence or research. Critically, a bias free evaluation is defined as one that assesses parenting capabilities rather than a parent’s disability. In addition, child welfare services must establish referral procedures for individuals who need, or are believed to need, reasonable modifications for parenting services or other necessary resources, and to ensure that tests, assessments, and other evaluation materials, are tailored to identify and assess specific areas of disability-related needs.

CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

The child welfare system refers broadly to a group of services that are meant to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families. This system – which includes child protective services, family courts, and private child welfare agencies – responds to allegations or concerns over the safety of children, usually following an allegation of abuse or neglect.

Parents with disabilities face higher rates of involvement with the child welfare system than peers without disabilities. Families too often find themselves under investigation even when a report of abuse or neglect is not based on actual evidence, but the false assumption that a parent with a disability cannot care for a child.

For example, a nurse might report a mother with quadriplegia to child welfare services immediately after she has given birth because she believes – incorrectly – that paralysis in itself renders that mother unfit.

Child welfare systems are state and locally controlled but also receive federal funding, meaning that they must comply with the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA. Under these laws, they are prohibited from discriminating based on disability and required to provide reasonable accommodations

to parents with disabilities.

This means that all assessments of parenting skills may not be based on stereotypes about disability; rather, evaluations must be conducted on an individualized basis and rooted in facts and evidence.

In addition, all services and proceedings must offer equal access to parents with disabilities. For example, required parenting skills classes must take place in a location that is accessible for wheelchair users; if bathing a child is among the skills being taught, adaptive equipment must be provided for use by a parent with paralysis. Service animals must be allowed in areas of a courthouse or state building with a no pet policy. Note takers must be provided if needed by a person with limited dexterity. Transportation to mandatory hearings must be arranged for a parent with a disability if it supports reunification with a child.

Yet, despite the intent of federal disability civil rights legislation, states continue to include disability as grounds for termination of parental rights. As a result, people with disabilities continue to face systemic discrimination in the child welfare system; parents of color are at even greater risk of discrimination.

As of 2024, the District of Columbia and ten states – Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Wisconsin – list physical disability as grounds for termination of parental rights.

SPOTLIGHT: ROBYN POWELL

As a young lawyer at the National Council on Disability (NCD), Robyn Powell was tasked with investigating the challenges faced by parents living with disabilities.

The assignment increasingly preoccupied her. Scouring court cases and interviewing parents across the country, Powell learned that they were more likely to be reported for abuse than parents without disabilities, to have their children placed in foster care, and to lose custody in divorce proceedings.

"The wide-ranging issues that people were experiencing related to parenthood were just shocking to me," she says. "It was like an onion. Every time I peeled back a layer, I'd find another layer."

With help from her colleagues, Powell documented the widespread discrimination in "Rocking the Cradle; Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and Their Families," a groundbreaking 445-page report that sparked a national reckoning.

Upon its release in 2012, the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services adopted new guidelines to prevent discriminatory practices and enforce violations. State legislatures began passing legislation to strengthen the rights of parents with disabilities. And Powell, now a professor at Stetson University College of Law, discovered a new sense of purpose.

"I realized this was a problem and that I could maybe do something about it," she says.

Over the last decade, Powell has trained thousands of child welfare workers, judges and lawyers on the application of ADA laws. She launched the ***Disabled Parenting Project,*** *an online community for parents and prospective parents with disabilities. And she has continued tracking the discrimination faced by families as a researcher for the* ***National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities.***

My research has two priorities," she says. "One is to identify the problems. The other is to offer solutions."

Powell's passion for her work is both professional and personal: she was born with arthrogryposis, a condition affecting the muscles and joints.

"I have a unique lens on this issue," she says, adding, "I'm a lawyer. I have a PhD and do research. And I'm a woman with a disability, so I have personal stakes in this."

Powell, who most recently studied how the use of algorithms by child welfare services unfairly targets parents with disabilities, is determined to keep these issues in the public eye. But she also aspires to one day be out of a job.

"I'm hoping I work myself into retirement," she says. "I'm hoping we solve these problems, and I don't need to do this anymore.

CHILD WELFARE AND THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Before Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in 1978, an estimated 25-35 percent of Native American children were removed from their homes and communities by state child welfare services and private adoption agencies. The federal law was established to end the historically disproportionate removal practices, and to protect the rights and culture of Native American children and families.

The federal standards designated by the ICWA apply to both child welfare services and custody cases, and require caseworkers to:

- Provide active efforts to help maintain or reunite families, such as helping parents identify and access housing, financial, transportation, mental health, substance abuse, and peer support services
- In cases of removal, prioritize placement with Native families to preserve a child's Tribal identity
- Notify the child's parents and tribe of the child custody proceeding
- Actively involve the child's parents and Tribe in the proceedings; specific efforts may include facilitating the use of remedial and rehabilitative services provided by the child's Tribe and inviting Tribal representatives to participate in providing support and services to the child's family

Despite the dual protections of the ADA and ICWA, parents with disabilities from Native American tribes continue to be overrepresented in child welfare cases.

The National Indian Child Welfare Association offers comprehensive tips for families on how to prepare for a visit from child welfare services, what to do if their child has been removed from the home, and how to find legal representation.

To learn more, visit its website at *https://www.nicwa.org/child-welfare-resources*.

Legal services, referrals and additional resources are available from the Native American Disability Law Center. For more information, visit its website at *https://www.nativedisabilitylaw.org/contact-us*.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

Beginning with conception efforts, the rights of parents with disabilities are protected under federal law. If you experience fertility issues while trying to become pregnant, you have the right to access invitro fertilization or other assistive reproductive technologies, including intrauterine insemination and surrogacy. Doctors providing these treatments must comply with the ADA and, if they receive federal funding, the Rehab Act. Similarly, the ADA and Rehab Act apply to both public and private adoption agencies, specifically prohibiting discrimination against prospective adoptive parents living with disabilities.

Health care facilities and services, including reproductive health providers, are also prohibited by the Affordable Care Act of 2010 from discriminating against patients because of their disability.

Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities by denying access to goods and services. This means that reproductive health providers must:

- Not establish eligibility criteria that screen out people with disabilities
- Make reasonable accommodations to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations; for example, allowing service dogs into medical offices

- Ensure that no person with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise treated differently because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services; to accommodate a person with limited hand mobility, intake forms might be provided electronically to ensure compatibility with assistive technology such as speech to text software
- Remove architectural barriers, such as by rearranging narrow waiting rooms and widening toilet stalls
- Make goods or services available through alternate methods, such as relocating relevant procedures or appointments to accessible portions of the facility

Unfortunately, attitudinal and financial barriers remain a challenge for parents with disabilities as they seek to build families; according to a study cited by the National Council on Disabilities, many fertility specialists regularly practice discrimination based on marital status, sexual orientation, genetic history, HIV status, psychological diagnosis, educational attainment, and physical or cognitive disabilities. In addition, the federal health insurance programs Medicare and Medicaid - through which many people with disabilities receive health insurance - do not cover fertility treatment. Medicaid plans in some states may offer various infertility diagnostic services (ranging from labs tests and office visits to imaging), and New York offers limited coverage of fertility medication.

Sharing successful stories of parenting with a disability and joining efforts to raise awareness about discriminatory practices can help create policies that support all families; for more ideas on how to get involved, see the *Advocating for Change* section on page 22.

CUSTODY, VISITATION & THE FAMILY LAW SYSTEM

The Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the ADA apply to the family court system, as they do with any local and state governmental entities. Family law courts must:

- Provide equal opportunity to participate in programs, services, or activities and make reasonable modifications to policies, practices or procedures. Examples include offering a virtual option for a hearing

when the courthouse is inaccessible to a defendant who uses a wheelchair or scheduling meetings in consultation with local paratransit service schedules

- Provide auxiliary aids and services such as text to speech tools when necessary to ensure effective communication
- Ensure that all services, programs, and activities are readily accessible to, and useable by, people with disabilities; for example, the location of parenting classes may be relocated to accommodate a wheelchair user

Unlike child welfare cases, which concern parental unfitness and termination of parental rights, family courts step in when parents are unable to reach a custody or visitation agreement between themselves. Family courts decide child custody based on the "best interest of the child" standard.

In 1979 a landmark court decision helped establish a legal precedent for the rights of parents with disabilities. In the case, *In re Marriage of Carney*, a father lost custody of his children after he sustained a spinal cord injury while serving in the military reserve; the lower court, in rendering

SPOTLIGHT: KANEY O’NEILL

When Kaney O’Neill sustained a C5-C6 spinal cord injury at the age of 21, more than anything, she feared for the family she might not have.

“My first thought wasn’t “Will I be able to walk again,’” she says. “It was, ‘Will I be able to be a mom?’”

A decade later, she discovered she was pregnant. Thrilled, she immediately began occupational therapy to practice how she might hold a bottle, change a diaper, and burp the baby. She exercised to strengthen her biceps, and stockpiled adaptive equipment, including three types of baby carriers and a height-adjustable crib.

“I’d never felt better,” she says. “I was ready to take on the challenge and be all the mom I could be.”

But 10 weeks after her son Aiden was born, O’Neill’s former boyfriend filed for full custody, alleging she was “not a fit and proper person” to care for their son and that her disability “greatly limits her ability to care for the minor, or even wake up if the minor is distressed.”

The ensuing custody battle put O’Neill’s parenting under a microscope. Court appointed lawyers interviewed her and observed her with the baby. O’Neill documented their day-to-day life, chronicling trips to the library and music class, and recording videos of herself using adaptive equipment; for other parents, the efforts might’ve simply been a diary; for O’Neill, it was an insurance policy.

After nearly two years, both parties came to an agreement that gave Aiden’s father visitation rights and O’Neill primary custody. By then, Aiden had learned to walk by holding onto O’Neill’s feet as she drove her wheelchair backwards.

O’Neill counts herself lucky. According to “Rocking the Cradle,” parents with disabilities are more likely to lose custody of their children after divorce. Aiden, now 15, was never removed from her care. But she describes the custody battle as worse than recovering from her injury.

“I lived in constant fear and worry and anxiety at a time when I should have been learning my way as a mom and full of joy,” she says. “I felt robbed.”

These days, O’Neill and Aiden like to watch movies – he favors action, she prefers Christian-themed or anything with a dog – and go record hunting around Chicago; she is grateful for their life together.

“It’s so easy to look at one another and look for differences, rather than our commonalities and what makes us human,” she says.

its decision, noted that his relationship with his children would not be "normal" because of the disability. The decision was reversed by the California Supreme Court, which criticized the original ruling for having stereotyped the father "as a person deemed forever unable to be a good parent simply because he is physically handicapped. Like most stereotypes, this is both false and demeaning."

Though Carney held that a parent's disability should not be a factor in custody cases, this is not always enforced; decades after the ruling, bias remains an issue in family courts. Research by the NCD finds that parents with disabilities are more likely to lose custody of their children after divorce, and that 13 percent of parents with physical disabilities have reported discrimination in custody cases.

All states use the "best interest of the child" standard in custody determination. However, states differ in their criteria to determine "best interest" standards and most have not established legal protections for parents with disabilities when it comes to custody and visitation. While many family courts continue to discriminate against parents with disabilities, there has been progress since the Carney ruling; states including California, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Idaho have passed laws that limit the consideration of disability and place the burden of proof on the parent who raises the issue in custody cases.

ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

The discrimination protections of the ADA and Rehabilitation Act apply to foster care placements and domestic adoptions, including those overseen by both public and private adoption agencies. Private adoption agencies in the U.S. facilitating international adoptions are also bound by the ADA.

These entities must provide physical and programmatic accessibility and reasonable accommodations for prospective adoptive parents, such as offering parenting skills classes in locations that are wheelchair accessible. Home studies, whether for foster care placement, or domestic or international adoptions, must be conducted on an individualized basis and free of stereotypes about disability.

According to Title III of the ADA, adoption agencies may not use “standards or criteria or methods...that have the effect of discriminating on the basis of disability” and may not use eligibility criteria that “screen out an individual with a disability…unless the criteria can be shown to be necessary for the provision” of services.”

In other words, it is illegal for adoption agencies to deny placement based on disability. The fact that a person might live with spinal muscular atrophy or a spinal cord injury does not prevent them from providing safe and proper care for a child.

STATE LAW - PROMISING PRACTICES

Across the country, advocates and legislators are working to advance and strengthen protections for parents with disabilities. The **National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities** tracks legislative efforts, both past and present, aimed at prohibiting discriminatory practices; for information about your own state, visit its website at *https://heller.brandeis.edu/parents-with-disabilities/map/index.html*.

The following list features some examples of recent gains and promising initiatives.

Kentucky: Introduced in 2024, **House Bill 183** would prohibit termination of parental rights solely based on disability and ensure that a parent's disability could not be used to deny adoption. If passed, the legislation would also require accommodations that are tailored to parental disability be provided by the child welfare system, with descriptions of those efforts documented in court and case progress reports.

Nebraska: In 2018, a state law was passed that prohibits custody preferences based on disability. The law places the burden of proof on the party asserting that the other is incapable or less capable of parenting effectively because of a disability.

Nevada: In 2019, the legislature passed a law prohibiting the denial of custody, visitation, or adoption petitions solely because a parent has a visual, hearing or physical disability. In addition, involvement with the child welfare system solely due to parental disability is also prohibited.

Oregon: In 2019, a state law was passed that **requires modifications and reunification services must be provided to parents with disabilities.**

Vermont: House Bill 600, introduced in 2024, is currently pending before the General Assembly. If passed, this bill would prohibit the use of disability as a reason to restrict the rights of prospective and current parents, foster parents, and guardians unless proven to be detrimental to the welfare of the child. It would also require a written court finding outlining how a parent's disability negatively impacts their ability to care for their child and why supportive parenting services would not serve as reasonable accommodations.

LEGAL RESOURCES

Legal resources are available for both parents and prospective parents who are discriminated against because of their disability.

Parents who become involved with child welfare services should immediately alert social workers and other staff to their disability, request any necessary accommodation to access services and proceedings, and establish that parenting assessments must be ADA compliant. State courts will have a Title II ADA coordinator who can provide help. Examples of accommodations that may be needed include scheduling parenting classes in accessible classrooms, arranging paratransit to help families attend interviews, and allowing service animals in buildings with a no pet policy. If possible, make requests in writing to establish that the agency was made aware of the disability and reminded of its responsibility to follow ADA guidelines.

Speak with a lawyer for any custody issues related to divorce proceedings. In most states, parents involved in a child welfare case are entitled to a court-appointed lawyer. No matter the circumstances, try to find an attorney who understands or has experience in both disability law and family law. Parenting assessments are critical to most child welfare cases and custody proceedings. Your lawyer should ensure that any evaluation of you as a parent is conducted by a professional who has experience with disabilities.

A federally-designated Protection & Advocacy agency exists in each state and territory to provide legal services to people with disabilities. Find the organization in your area and learn about other available resources by visiting the website of the **National Disability Rights Network** at *NDRN.org*. If your local P&A office is not able to take your case, ask for referrals for other legal programs. Disability-related organizations may also be able to help. **Through the Looking Glass** – a nationally recognized leader in the field of parenting with disabilities – operates a legal program that provides referrals, training, and assistance to parents in need of representation. For more information, visit its website at *https://lookingglass.org*.

Legal Aid Services are also available in every state for people who live in households with annual incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines. Find your local office and other resources by visiting the Law Help website at *https://www.lawhelp.org.* Law schools across the country also support pro-bono legal clinics that may be able to help. Search for a clinic in your state by visiting the **American Bar Association** website at *https://www.americanbar.org/groups/center-pro-bono/resources/directory_of_law_school_public_interest_pro_bono_programs/schools_by_state*.

Make sure your lawyer is familiar with "Rocking the Cradle," the NCD's report on parental rights for people with disabilities. The report is available for free on the NCD website at *https://www.ncd.gov/report/rocking-the-cradle-ensuring-the-rights-of-parents-with-disabilities-and-their-children*.

This Reeve Foundation Parental Rights Toolkit can also provide a helpful overview of disability law for lawyers and child welfare workers. Carry a copy with you during legal meetings and child welfare service proceedings to refer to your rights as defined under federal law.

If you believe your civil rights have been violated, either at the state or federal level, you may also file a complaint with the Department of Justice on its website at *https://www.ada.gov/file-a-complaint*.

BUILDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORKS

Connecting with other parents living with disabilities is often the most valuable resource for families. Community members who share parenting experiences can offer advice, tips and a unique understanding of living with disabilities that can help navigate challenges with medical institutions, child welfare services and the courts. Such networks can also help demonstrate the breadth of a family's support system and allay the fears of those same institutions.

An excellent place to find community is the Disabled Parenting Project (DPP), an online space for parents and prospective parents with disabilities. Part of the National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities, the DPP not only provides a connection to other parents but to an array of related resources including fact sheets, podcasts and webinars. To learn more, visit *https://disabledparenting.com*.

National disability organizations can also help parents with similar experiences find one another. For example, a parent living with MS might reach out to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. To learn more about connecting online or through local chapters, visits its website at *https://www.nationalmssociety.org/resources/get-connected*.

Also consider getting involved with your local Center for Independent Living, federally funded programs that provide services and supports for people with disabilities. Find the locations in your area by visiting *https://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory*.

The Reeve Foundation Paralysis Resource Center can match parents and prospective parents with peer mentors with similar disabilities. Emotional support is critical for all new parents. Meeting other parents with disabilities can help overcome doubts, boost confidence and serve as a real-time reminder of all that is possible. To request a peer mentor, visit the foundation website at *www.ChristopherReeve.org* or call 800-539-7309.

TAKING ACTION – ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE IN YOUR STATE

There are many ways to not only raise awareness about discrimination against parents with disabilities, but to work toward legislative and policy-based solutions.

Many states still have outdated statutes regarding parenting with a disability. The National Council on Independent Living, through the national network of Centers for Independent Living and Statewide Independent Living Councils, advocates at the state level for updates to these laws that recognize the civil rights of parents with disabilities. To get involved, contact your local center or visit *https://ncil.org.*

Consider joining the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation's Regional Champions Program. These volunteers build relationships with their federal representatives and educate them on policies that improve the lives of people living with paralysis. Learn more about the program by visiting our website at *https://www.ChristopherReeve.org/get-involved/advocate-for-change/regional-champions-program*.

Finally, look around your community: How can it improve supports for individuals and families with disabilities? Does the Department of Arts and Cultural Services offer programs in accessible locations? Does the Department of Public Recreation maintain paths alongside fields that allow parents who use wheelchairs to attend their children's games? Oftentimes, the logistical needs of people with disabilities are overlooked. Join your local committees and attend town hall meetings to advocate for a more inclusive community.

Sources: Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, National Council on Disability's Rocking the Cradle: Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and Their Children, National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities at Brandeis University, ADA National Network, Department of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Child Welfare Act, Federal Register.

RESOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to recognize the critical work of the National Council on Disability: *"Rocking the Cradle: Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and Their Children"* shone a light on the discrimination faced by parents with disabilities and helped drive the legislative reforms that continue to this day.

Additional Resources:

American with Disabilities Act
https://www.ada.gov/topics/intro-to-ada

ADA National Network: Free, Informal Guidance on the ADA and Other Disability-Related Laws
https://adata.org or 800-949-4232

Centers for Independent Living: Searchable Directory
https://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory

Disabled Parenting Project
https://disabledparenting.com

Indian Child Welfare Act
https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/tribal-child-welfare/indian-child-welfare-act/?top=1390

National Council on Disability: "Rocking the Cradle"
https://www.ncd.gov/assets/uploads/reports/2012/ncd-rocking-the-cradle.pdf

National Disability Rights Network: Protection and Advocacy Agencies
https://www.ndrn.org/about/ndrn-member-agencies/

National Indian Child Welfare Association: How to Find Low-Cost Legal Representation
https://www.nicwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/How-to-Find-Free-and-Low-Cost-Legal-Assistance.pdf

National Indian Child Welfare Association: Resources
https://www.nicwa.org/child-welfare-resources

National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities
https://heller.brandeis.edu/parents-with-disabilities/index.html

National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities: Map of Current Legislation Supporting Parents
https://heller.brandeis.edu/parents-with-disabilities/map/index.html

Native American Disability Law Center
https://www.nativedisabilitylaw.org or call 800-862-7271

Through the Looking Glass
https://lookingglass.org

Please visit the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation at *www.ChristopherReeve.org* for additional resources and information, including to connect with peer mentors and receive free booklets on topics ranging from pregnancy and parenting to employment and emergency preparedness.

Notes

Notes

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We're here to help.

Learn more today!

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