

- Almost 70% of all children involved in the juvenile justice system have disabilities.
  
- Disabilities can include learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health and emotional disabilities. Some examples are ADHD, depression, mood disorder, depression, and bipolar disorder.
  
- Too often, children with disabilities are enmeshed within the juvenile justice system because they have received inadequate education options or other state-related services.
  
- The Disabilities Law Program (DLP) has a partnership with the Juvenile Public Defenders' office to advocate for diversion programs and address gaps in services and accommodation.

## **Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.**

**A Private Non-Profit Law Firm  
Serving Delawareans Since  
1946**

**100 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 801  
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## **At Risk Youth with Disabilities Project**

**Disabilities Law  
Program**

**Community Legal Aid  
Society, Inc.**

## **The types of services the Disabilities**

**Law Program provides are listed below:**

### **Coordination with the Public Defender**

We will assist the Juvenile Public Defender's office, Judges, and Commissioners of Family Court by advocating for disability rights and services.

### **Special Education**

Because many children enter the juvenile system as a consequence of school-related problems, DLP advocates for children who have been to excluded from special education services as well as children who have failed to be identified for those services.

#### **We can help by:**

- Advocating for special education placement.
- Advocating for specific educational accommodations.
- Assistance with discipline issues such as suspensions and expulsions related to the child's disabilities.
- Assistance with transition from detention back to school or from school to job training and other education programs.

### **Government Entitlements**

We help children access appropriate services and accommodations among various state agencies such as:

- The Division of Child Mental Health
- The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services
- Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Division of Family Services

#### **We can also assist with:**

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid
- Public and Section 8 housing
- Disability Discrimination

We will screen all cases to determine whether we can assist a particular child with a disability. When we cannot represent a child and/or parent or guardian, we will provide information and resources if appropriate.

*\*This brochure is not intended to provide legal advice.*