

Connect with Us:



Share Release:

[Share](#)



North Carolina
Department of Administration

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Britt Cobb, Secretary

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Date | May 21, 2007 | Contact | Jill Warren Lucas |
| Release | Immediate | Phone | 919-807-2496 |

CAROLINA LEGAL ASSISTANCE DESIGNATED AS NORTH CAROLINA'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM
CLA will assume responsibilities on July 2, 2007

RALEIGH – North Carolina’s Protection and Advocacy System was today redesignated to Carolina Legal Assistance (CLA). CLA will assume the protection and advocacy responsibilities on July 2, 2007. These services are currently provided by the Governor’s Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities (GACPD), a division of the N.C. Department of Administration.

This action was taken at the request of the disability community and after consulting with the GACPD governing board. Feedback determined that advocacy services can be provided more efficiently and effectively in an independent agency. CLA is independent of the state and will be exclusively responsible for advocating for people with disabilities in North Carolina.

CLA meets all of the requirements of a statewide Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System and shall have all of the powers and duties vested in it by applicable federal statutes and regulations. There will be no charge for P&A services.

P&As are required to have the authority to pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies or approaches to ensure the protection of, and advocacy for, the rights of such individuals within the state who are or who may be eligible for treatment, services, or habilitation, or who are being considered for a change in living arrangements, with particular attention to members of ethnic and racial minority groups; and provide information on and referral to programs and services addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities. P&As have the authority to investigate incidents of abuse and neglect of individuals with disabilities if the incidents are reported to the system or if there is probable cause to believe that the incidents occurred.

###

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| VIEW ALL PRESS RELEASES | RETURN TO NCDOA HOMEPAGE | RETURN TO PIO HOMEPAGE |
|---|--|--|

