



Who We Are . . .

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) since 1986

- protecting against serious abuse and neglect
- advocating for empowerment and recovery
- responding to individuals of all ages
- encouraging development of individualized community supports

Founded on our Values . . .

In addition to responding to allegations of abuse and neglect, we try to help people get reestablished in their community in ways that provide safety, adequate treatment, respect, and friends and neighbors who take active roles in their lives.

Motivated by our Mission . . .

- **Protection . . .** if you or someone you know is at risk of abuse or neglect, contact our office. We want you to call us if:
 - someone is hurt physically.
 - someone is hurt by medications.
 - someone is seriously hurt by words.
 - someone kept in a facility is being mistreated.
- **Advocacy . . .** we also work for you to:
 - understand what is going on and what to expect.
 - understand your legal, human and other rights.
 - get appropriate treatment and get along with staff and doctors.
 - get released from the facility.
 - be able to file your own complaints and get your own release.
 - have a home in the community.

What We Do . . .

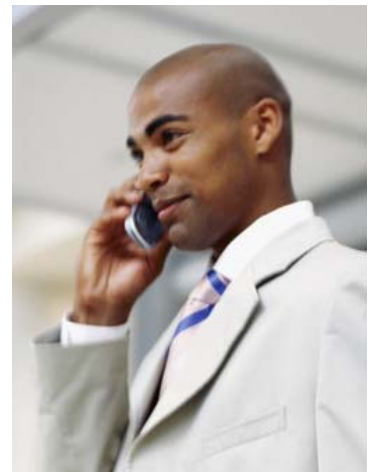
- **Staff Advocates**
 - We visit state psychiatric facilities,

private psychiatric facilities, prisons, jails, foster care settings, group homes, “personal care” homes and other places.

- We answer phone calls and listen to what you say when you call.
- We keep all information confidential.
- We investigate abuse, neglect and rights violations.
- We work for you, not for the mental health system.
- **Staff Attorneys**
 - We may become involved if your issue is a legal one.
 - We may go to court with you as a last resort if it is necessary.
 - We cannot take criminal cases or sue for damages.

Who You Are . . .

- A person with rights who may call if:
 - you are in a psychiatric facility or discharged within the last 90 days and are being hurt.
 - you know of someone who is being abused or neglected
 - you want to help.



Call, write or visit The Georgia Advocacy Office

One Decatur Town Center

150 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 430

Decatur, GA 30030

404•885•1234 voice/tdd or 1•800•537•2329 voice/tdd

404•378•0031 fax

<http://www.thegao.org>; info@thegao.org

• Other GAO brochures describe our programs aimed at securing protection and advocacy for people with other disabilities and needs.

• The Georgia Advocacy Office is the Protection and Advocacy System for Georgia and receives funding through: • US Dept. of Health and Human Services/Administration on Developmental Disabilities (PADD); • Georgia Dept. of Community Affairs (Citizen Advocacy); • US Dept. of Health and Human Services/Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (PAIMI); • US Dept. of Education/Rehabilitation Services (PAIR); • US Dept. of Education/Nat'l. Instit. on Disability and Rehab. Research (PAAT); • US Social Security Administration (PABSS); • US Dept. of Health and Human Services/Admin. for Children and Families (HAVA); • US Dept. of Health and Human Services/Health Resources and Services Admin. (PATBI); • Donations from Individuals and Corporations. These contents are solely the responsibility of the grantee and do not necessarily represent the official views of the funders.

“With Liberty and Justice for All . . .”



...includes people with mental illness.

The Georgia Advocacy Office, Inc.
One Decatur Town Center
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