DISABILITY RIGHTS IDAHO
STATEMENT OF GOALS AND PRIORITIES
FISCAL YEAR 2027
(October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027)

HOW DO WE CHOOSE CASES?

1. You must live in Idaho.

2. Your problem must be related to your disability.

3. Our funding sources have rules for service. You and your problem must meet these rules. Additional information about what we do can be found on our website www.disabilityrightsidaho.org

4. Your problem must be one that we can solve. The law must be able to give you the help you are asking for.

5. Every year, our Board, Council, the community and our staff set what we will focus on or prioritize for the next year. Your case must fit one of the priorities for the year.

6. If we can give you information to solve the problem on your own or your problem can be solved by another professional, we will give you that information instead of taking your case.

7. So that we can help the most people possible, we try to take cases that can help many people before we take cases for one person.

8. Disability Rights Idaho (DRI) gets many requests for help and sometimes we do not have enough money or people to help everyone that call, we have a "lack of resources". So sometimes we may not be able to help you, even though your problem fits one of our priorities.

9. We talk to everyone involved in a problem first to try and solve the problem before we take legal action or file cases in court.

10. We will only address abuse, neglect, or rights violations that happen in a facility or by a service provider.

DRI cannot help with every issue, including, but not limited to criminal matters, divorces, custody of minors, bankruptcy, worker compensation issues, personal injury cases, taxation issues or estate planning. We always welcome suggestions for new areas of focus.

Abuse and Neglect

Goal: People with disabilities living in or receiving care or treatment from a covered service provider or facility will be free from abuse, neglect, and rights violations.

- **Area of Focus 1: Monitoring**
    - DRI will monitor covered service providers and facilities for abuse, neglect, and rights violations, e.g. failure to address declarations for mental health treatment.
- **Area of Focus 2: Investigations**
    - DRI will investigate allegations of abuse or neglect of people with disabilities living in or receiving care or treatment from a covered service provider or facility as allowed under our federal authority.
- **Area of Focus 3: Individual Cases**
    - DRI will accept individual cases to address issues or rights violations identified during monitoring visits or as reported, for example, failures to provide needed assistive technology.

Education

Goal: Students with disabilities will have available to them a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504).

- **Area of Focus 1: Training and Outreach on Services to Youth with Disabilities to Aid in Moving to Adulthood**
    - DRI will conduct training and outreach on services available to youth with disabilities to aid in moving to adulthood, e.g. employment, secondary education and independent living.
- **Area of Focus 2: Expanding Statewide Opportunities and Legal Resources for Children Who Receive Education Services Through Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

- DRI will provide three (3) Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses to Idaho attorneys on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) due process framework.

- **Area of Focus 3: Website Development**
    - DRI will develop website resources for self-advocacy under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504).

Employment

Goal: People with disabilities will have employment opportunities and be free from employment disability discrimination.

- **Area of Focus 1: Individual Cases**
    - DRI will provide advocacy assistance to Social Security beneficiaries who are applicants or clients of Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA) Programs and experiencing a barrier to employment: Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR), Disability Action Center (DAC), Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE), and Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC).

- **Area of Focus 2: Outreach**
    - DRI will conduct outreach visits to various employment environments where Idahoans with disabilities work.

Public Policy

Goal: Participate in systemic advocacy that promotes and protects the rights of people with disabilities.

- **Area of Focus 1: Collaboration**
    - DRI will collaborate with the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD), the University of Idaho Center on Disability, and Human Development (CDHD) to address issues that affect Idahoans with intellectual and developmental disabilities as they arise.

- **Area of Focus 2: Group Advocacy**
    - DRI will participate with other stakeholders and disability groups on task forces, work groups, and councils that present opportunities to advocate with and on behalf of people with disabilities.
- **Area of Focus 3: Systemic Activities**
    - DRI will address systemic issues throughout the year that affect people with disabilities, including assistive technology needs.

Self-Determination and Independence

Goal: Provide systemic, legally based advocacy to ensure that people with disabilities can exercise self-determination and independence in the community of their choice.

- **Area of Focus 1: Individual Cases (Guardianship)**
    - DRI will provide legal representation to adults with disabilities to modify or terminate abusive or unnecessary guardianships.
- **Area of Focus 2: Individual Cases (Alternatives to guardianship)**
    - DRI will provide assistance with alternatives to guardianship including creating supported decision-making agreements ("SDMAs"), Powers of Attorney ("POAs"), and Declarations for Mental Health Treatment.
- **Area of Focus 3: Materials and Presentation Development on Idaho's Guardianship Laws and Alternatives**
    - DRI will prepare materials and presentations to educate on recent changes to Idaho's guardianship laws in conjunction with the Longterm Care Ombudsman as well as others.
- **Area of Focus 4: Adults Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Will Receive Effective Communication Pursuant to Title III of The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) In Healthcare Settings.**
    - DRI will continue to collaborate with the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing regarding a referral process for those who are denied effective communication in healthcare settings.

- **Area of Focus 5: Individual Cases Regarding Denial of Effective Communication Pursuant to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in Healthcare Settings**
    - DRI will provide legal representation regarding denials of effective communication in healthcare settings as resources allow.
- **Area of Focus 6: Website Material Development**
    - DRI will develop website resources for self-advocacy pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504).

Outreach and Education

Goal: People with disabilities will have increased awareness about rights, laws, and services for people with disabilities, including the services offered by DRI.

- **Area of Focus 1: Outreach and Education**
    - DRI will participate in outreach and educational activities to increase awareness about rights, laws, and services for people with disabilities.
- **Area of Focus 2: Website Material Development**
    - DRI will identify and develop website resources to increase awareness about rights, laws, and services for people with disabilities.

Voting

Goal: Address barriers which prevent eligible Idaho voters with disabilities from voting.

- **Area of Focus 1: Education for Full Electoral Participation**
    - DRI will provide information and education to support full participation in the electoral process for eligible Idaho voters with disabilities, including registering to vote, voting by mail, using assistive technology, and accessing polling places.
- **Area of Focus 2: Long Term Care Ombudsman Collaboration**

- Collaboration with Ombudsman to locate Idaho eligible voters who are experiencing barriers to full electoral participation.