

AUTHORITY MEMBERS' DUTIES:

- Attend monthly meetings
- Serve on investigation teams
- Meet with service providers to review policies and interview staff

Members receive both formal group training and individualized training. Members are reimbursed for travel and expenses. Average time commitment is around 4-6hrs/month.

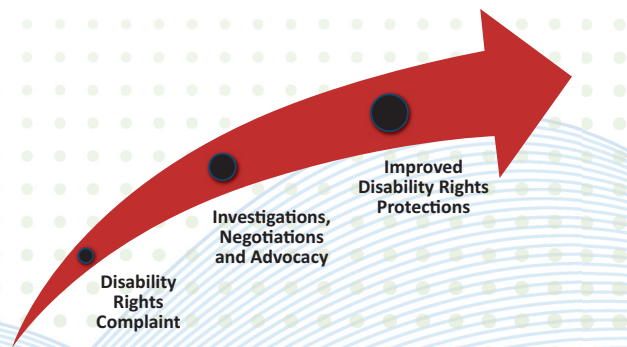
BENEFITS:

- Make a positive impact in the lives of persons with disabilities.
- Gain better understanding of disability rights and the challenges persons with disabilities face.
- Have an active role in promoting positive change to policies, procedures and legislation.
- Learn how professional skills and life experiences can impact disability rights protections.

The rewards are endless.



HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY



Illinois
Guardianship & Advocacy Commission
Attention: North Suburban HRA Office

9511 Harrison Avenue, Room 335
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016-1565

Phone: (847) 294-4264

Fax: (847) 294-4263

Website:

www.illinois.gov/sites/gac/HRA

STATEWIDE TOLL-FREE INTAKE:

1-866-274-8023

STATEWIDE TOLL-FREE TTY:

1-866-333-3362

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois

300 12/17

IOCI 17-587



State of Illinois
Guardianship and Advocacy Commission

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE
YOU KNOW HAS HAD
THEIR DISABILITY
RIGHTS VIOLATED,
HELP IS
AVAILABLE**



OUR MISSION:

“To safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities under the Guardianship and Advocacy Act.”



OUR PROCESS:

The HRA conducts investigations based on **complaints** (*complainants remain confidential*) initiated by any of the following sources:

- Persons with Disabilities
- Family Members
- Service Providers
- Facility Staff
- Guardians
- Concerned Citizens
- HRA Initiated
- Anonymously

To investigate, complaints must involve:

- a disability right
- a person with a disability
- a disability service

Investigations may involve any of the following:

- Entrance and inspection of the service provider's premises
- Privately questioning persons relevant to the complaint
- Review of related records
- Review of service provider policies and practices
- Referral to other, more suitable agencies

Examples of the types of facilities investigated:

- Group homes, including CILAs
- Hospitals, including behavioral health units and emergency rooms
- Nursing Homes
- Vocational Programs
- State-Operated Facilities
- Special Education Programs
- Private Psychiatric Hospitals
- Community Programs that Serve Persons with Disabilities
- Accessible Public Transportation

OUR PURPOSE:

We are a *free forum* that creates systematic change by offering *recommendations* for improved rights protections to disability service providers. We are a negotiating body, not an enforcement agency. We avoid court room confrontation and associated court costs and legal fees.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER.

The HRA is unique in its use of citizen volunteers to conduct investigations and make corrective recommendations. As such, Regional Authorities are always seeking to fill vacancies as they occur as well as maintain a pool of potential volunteer members for times when the need arises.

The HRA is divided into nine Regional Authorities. Each consist of nine volunteer members who are appointed by the Commission to serve a three-year term. A regional coordinator provides assistance to the volunteers.

Three of the nine member must be disability service providers, the remaining six must be consumers, family members of consumers or concerned citizens.

