

PIRS Hot Sheet

Advocacy & Services for People with Disabilities

<p>HOUSING DISCRIMINATION</p> <p>The US Justice Dept. has filed a lawsuit against the city of San Jacinto, Calif., alleging violations of the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act based on its treatment of group homes for persons with disabilities. This lawsuit is part of the Justice Department's continuing effort to enforce civil rights laws that require states and municipalities to end discrimination against, and unnecessary segregation of, persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, alleges that the city has impermissibly restricted the ability of group homes for people with disabilities to operate within the city. Under the city's zoning code, group homes that are not required to be licensed by the state, as well as some licensed homes, are not permitted uses in any zoning district within the city, and their ability to operate in multi-family zones is restricted.</p> <p>The United States' lawsuit further alleges that the city targeted housing for persons with disabilities for enforcement actions, including a November 2008 sweep in which city and county officials, including armed and uniformed police officers and sheriff's deputies, appeared at homes unannounced and interrogated residents with disabilities from a prepared questionnaire that included intrusive questions targeted to persons with mental disabilities. The complaint also alleges that the city has conditioned the grant of reasonable accommodations on the</p>	<p>adoption of unwarranted limitations on the residents of homes for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The suit seeks a court order preventing the city from enforcing its laws in a way that unlawfully discriminates on the basis of disability, and prohibiting the city from failing to make reasonable accommodations. It also seeks monetary damages to compensate victims and a civil penalty.</p> <p>"No person should be denied an equal opportunity for housing in his or her community, or suffer harassment or intimidation, because he or she is a person with a disability," said Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "The Justice Department is committed to preventing discriminatory treatment of people with disabilities."</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Consumer Input Needed for Burn Injury Factsheet</p> <p>The NIDRR-funded Northwest Regional Burn Model System and the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center are preparing a new consumer factsheet on <i>Itchy Skin After Burn Injury</i>. Individuals with burn injury and family members are invited to test the content in advance of publication. Contact msktc@air.org for information on how to participate. Learn more about the program at: http://burnrehab.washington.edu/</p>

PIRS Calendar

Reasonable accommodations are available upon advance request to facilitate access to PIRS facilities and services.

In order to maintain a comfortable environment for everyone, we respectfully request that **no perfumes or other scented products** are worn when attending activities at PIRS. Thank you.

⇒ **Deaf Awareness:** Learn basic sign language vocabulary to communicate; new class in January. For more information, call 530-885-6100 or TTY 530-885-0326.

Disability Peer Support Groups:

⇒ **Depression Support Group** – Friday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. at PIRS. This group is facilitated by Senior Peer Counseling Program of PCHHS. Call Tom Drake at 530-886-3413 for more information.

⇒ **Women’s Mental Health Disabilities Support Group** – Monday 5:00 –7:00 pm. Call Leslie Brewer, ext. 13.

⇒ **Men’s Disability Support Group** – Tuesday 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Call Jeff Cowen, ext 15, before attending.

⇒ **Women’s Disability Support Group** – Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Open drop-in group. Call Facilitator Barbara Finn, ext. 26, for more information.

⇒ **Individual Peer Support – New Program:** If you live between Applegate and Gold Run and would like to talk individually with a volunteer Peer Support Specialist, call Leslie, x13.

⇒ **Auburn Post Polio Support Group:** meets 9 am, 2nd Saturday each month at Denny’s, 2480 Grass Valley Hwy, Auburn. Questions? Call Ron Hill, 530-889-0291.

Auburn People First: self-advocacy for people with developmental disabilities

⇒ Call the Supported Life Institute, Self-Advocacy Coordination Project at 916-567-1974 for more information.

FREE Help with your healthcare services problems:

HICAP – Health Insurance Counseling for seniors and people with disabilities. Call Seniors First/SeniorLink at 1-800-878-9222 to make an appointment.

Health Rights Hotline, serving Placer, El Dorado, Yolo, & Sacramento Counties, regardless where you receive your health coverage. Tollfree (888) 354-4474 or TTY (916) 551-2180. In Sacramento, call (916) 551-2100. www.hrh.org.

HMO Help Center: State Dept. of Managed Health Care, free independent medical review (IMR) for denial of services. Assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call (888) 466-2219 or (877) 688-9891 (TTY). www.healthhelp.ca.gov.

DRA’s Health Access Project: free publications about the health care and insurance rights and concerns of people with disabilities and serious health conditions. <http://dralegal.org/>, and click on “Projects”.

Mental Health America
In Crisis? 1-800-273-TALK
Pensar en Suicida?
1-800-SUICIDA (784-2432)

(Ellos son Latinos y hablan Español)

California AgrAbility Project serves agricultural workers with disabilities and their families. Call (530) 752-1613 voice; Toll free: 1-800-477-6129; fax (530) 752-2640.
<http://calagrability.ucdavis.edu>

Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy

Diana Braun has Down Syndrome and Kathy Conour has Cerebral Palsy and is non-verbal. The two women met at a sheltered workshop in Illinois three decades ago and vowed to live independent, non-institutionalized lives together. They are tireless self-advocates who expand our vision of human capability. *Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy* moves beyond disability and activism to a story of a profound, creative friendship. Watch Diana and Kathy discuss advocacy and independent living:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ik0HZkVbuJA.



Do you need to hire an in-home personal assistant or care provider?

Are you a professional care provider?

Apply to join PIRS Personal Assistants Registry/Referral Service. (No fee)

To hire a provider, or to join our Provider Registry, call Tim Cooper at PIRS - 530-885-6100, x15.



Do you need some minor modifications to make your home safer and more accessible?

Call Don Wixon, Coordinator of PIRS Minor Home Modification Program. 530-885-6100, ext 34

Text-to-911

The FCC has announced that the four major wireless carriers – AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile – have agreed to accelerate the availability of text-to-911, with major deployments expected in 2013 and a commitment to nationwide availability by May 15, 2014.

Text-to-911 will provide consumers, including millions of consumers with hearing and speech disabilities, access to emergency services by enabling them to send a text message to 911. This will also provide consumers with enhanced access to emergency communications in situations where a voice call could endanger the caller, or a person with disabilities is unable to make a voice call. Text-to-911 will be available as an addition to, not a substitute for, voice calls to 911 services, and consumers should always make a voice call to 911 during an emergency if they can.

ADA Checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal

www.adachecklist.org/checklist.html

www.proyectovision.net

información sobre nuevas becas, pasantías, puestos de trabajo, y recursos que le pueden ayudar en el cumplimiento de sus metas relacionados con la educación, el empleo, y la vida independiente.

“Navigating Government Benefits & Employment: A Guidebook for Veterans with Disabilities.”

Free download at:

<http://vets.syr.edu/pdfs/benefits-guidebook.pdf>

ADA CORNER

A federal judge issued an order allowing the Justice Department to intervene in a disability discrimination lawsuit against the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), expanding the case from a statewide class action limited to California residents to a nationwide pattern or practice lawsuit. The lawsuit alleges that LSAC discriminates against prospective law students with disabilities by unnecessarily “flagging” test scores of persons that used testing accommodations in a way that identifies the test taker as a person with a disability, disclosing otherwise confidential disability-related information to law schools during the admissions process. As a result, the lawsuit alleges, LSAC fails to provide testing accommodations where needed to best ensure that those test takers can demonstrate their aptitude and achievement level rather than their disability. Read more about this announcement at the following link:

www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2012/October/12-crt-1261.html

Free Technical Assistance:

• Pacific Disability and Business Technical Advisory Center (DBTAC) – Hotline provides free detailed explanations on ADA questions and Guidelines. 1-800-949-4232.

www.adapacific.org.

• Dept of Justice ADA webpage:

www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm

• Equal Opportunity Employment Commission – non-discrimination in employment: www.eeoc.gov.

• Job Accommodation Network (JAN): lists examples of accommodations that may be appropriate for various types of disabling conditions. www.jan.wvu.edu

• www.access-board.gov – US Access Board publishes access guidelines based on research about best practices.

• www.DisabilityInfo.gov is a cross-government portal on disability, and is easily accessible.

• www.ncaonline.org- National Center on Accessibility promotes access to recreational facilities, focusing on universal access and practical solutions by linking designers with users.

• www.firstgov.gov – a one-stop source to find any federal agency and other information.

• Federal Transit Administration – ADA Assistance line: 1-888-446-4511 or

www.fta.dot.gov/transit_data_info/ada/

• Information on the U.S. Dept of Education enforcement of education rights (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA).

www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/index.html

• Discrimination in air transportation and related services. Hotline at 1-800-778-4838 (voice) or 1-800-455-9880 (TTY) to obtain assistance. Complaints must be submitted in writing. <http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/>



Advocate for Your Rights!

Never take your independence for granted. Never ignore discrimination. Speak out and defend your rights to access housing, education, employment, transportation, health care, telecommunications, recreation, and all the other benefits our society enjoys. Get involved! Stay informed! Contact Jeff Cowen: <jcowen@pirs.org>; Call 530-885-6100, ext.15; or write: PIRS, 11768 Atwood Rd., Ste.29, Auburn CA 95603.

NEW! Advocacy Team Workshops: Speakers and discussion on topics that impact your life. 11 am – 1 pm on the last Thursday of the month. Come join us!

To Contact Your Legislators online:

President: www.whitehouse.gov

Governor: www.governor.ca.gov

US Senators: thomas.loc.gov, then choose "Senate Directory" at top.

US Representatives: thomas.loc.gov, then choose "House Directory" at top.

State Senate: www.senate.ca.gov

State Assembly: www.assembly.ca.gov

Placer County: www.placer.ca.gov

El Dorado County: co.el-dorado.ca.us

Alpine County: www.alpinecountyca.gov



PIRS Board of Directors is seeking new members. In particular, if you are of Latino, Asian, or African-American descent and have a disability, or have legal or accounting expertise, please consider joining our Board.

Please call for an application:
530-885-6100, in Auburn
1-800-833-3453 outside of Auburn area
530-885-0326 TDD
530-885-3032 Fax

PIRS Board of Directors

Dawn Davidson, President
Robert Hancock, Vice President
Paul Opper, Treasurer
Dan Roye, Secretary
Michael Cummings, Director
Scot DeFevre, Director
Terry Scott, Director
Linda Wisdom, Director

PIRS Board Meeting:

Third Wednesday, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at PIRS.

Disability Rights Organizations:

www.ADAWatch.org: Advancing the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities

National Council on Independent Living:
www.NCIL.org

Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living: www.april-rural.org

CA Foundation for Independent Living Centers: www.cfilc.org

Mental Health: www.Bazelon.org

Advocacy for persons with developmental disabilities: [The ARC.org](http://TheARC.org)

Disability Rights California: www.drc.org

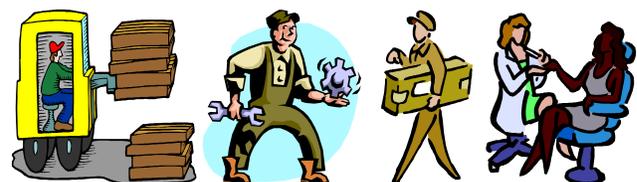
Disability Rights Education Defense Fund:
www.dredf.org

Not Dead Yet: opposing physician-assisted suicide. www.ndy.org

Disability Rights Advocates: dralegal.org

American Association of Persons with Disabilities: www.aapd.org

California Disability Community Action Network (CDCAN): Advocacy Without Borders: www.cdcan.us



www.disabilitybenefits101.org

Information on employment, health coverage and other benefits, and how it all relates to working. There's a unique "calculator" that will help you figure it out. You can work!

Placer Independent Resource Services
11768 Atwood Rd., Ste. 29
Auburn, CA 95603

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Auburn, CA
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PIRS Hotsheet is available online at
www.pirs.org
For alternative formats, call us at:
530-885-6100 (v); 530-885-0326 (tty)

Merry Christmas, Blessed Eid
and Happy Chanukkah



*Please Include PIRS
in Your Will.*



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We need your support. Please make a donation to PIRS today. Thank you!

PIRS is a Certified Agency of United Way California Capital Region: **Agency # 5751**

