Americans with Disabilities Act
A Powerful Tool for Justice

NLADA
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Medical-Legal Partnership Project
Center for Children’s Advocacy
Center for Children’s Advocacy

- Medical-Legal Partnership Project
- Addressing social determinants of health for enhanced health care outcomes
- Engaging medical professionals – training, advocacy
Camp for Susie

• Referral from Primary Care
• 7 years old – recent Type 1 diabetes diagnosis
• Refused admission to camp
Americans with Disabilities Act

Title II
No qualified individual shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any public entity.
Americans with Disabilities Act

Title III
No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodation of any place of public accommodation by any private entity.
Educational Opportunities
Civil Rights Working Group

District of Connecticut, U.S. Department of Justice
“Civil rights violations in educational and camp settings undermine the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens – our children,” stated U.S. Attorney Deirdre Daly.

“Through aggressive outreach and enforcement initiatives, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and our working group partners strive to eliminate these violations to improve the health and welfare of all children and young adults.”
Addressing Legal Need

Pervasive ADA violations

• Camps, daycare centers, aftercare programs
• Schools
• Post secondary programs
Traditional Remedies

• Monetary settlements
• Mandated internal training
• Comprehensive institutional policy change
Educational Opportunities
Civil Rights Working Group

Unique vehicle to address ADA violations
Educational Opportunities
Civil Rights Working Group

- Federal Government
- Advocacy Organizations
- State Agencies
- Private Sector Partners
Educational Opportunities
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Federal Government
• U.S. Department of Justice
• U.S. Department of Human Services
• U.S. Department of Education
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Advocacy Organizations

• Center for Children’s Advocacy
• Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
• Office of Protection and Advocacy
• NAACP

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State Agencies

• Connecticut State Department of Education
• African American Affairs Commission
• Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
• Asian Pacific Affairs Commission
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Private Sector Partners
• Connecticut After School Network
• Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association
• Connecticut Summer Camp Network
Training and Initiatives

Private
Staff development for camps, daycare, aftercare, private schools

Public Schools
School systems and ADA obligations

Community Organizations

Families

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Training and Initiatives

Public Schools and ADA obligations

- 504 obligations
- Collaboration with U.S. Department of Education
Training and Initiatives

Community

• Outreach and training for community and parent groups
Training and Initiatives

Educating the Public

• Development and distribution of materials to parents, service providers and educators
• kidsounsel.org/publications
Training and Initiatives

Getting Youth Involved

- New Haven Cooperative Arts High School PSA

Camps, clubs, sports and after school programs can really enrich a child’s life. But not enough counselors, coaches or program leaders work to assure their programs are accepting and accessible for all students.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B60mFoS3HvX5WV9IRzhXc0dVLW8/view
For questions or more information

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