Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)

In 2003 the Protection and Advocacy for individuals with Traumatic Brain Injuries (PATBI) program was created through a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. This program’s purpose is to expand advocacy services for individuals with traumatic brain injuries and to expand the service delivery system for this group of individuals.

PATBI GOALS/OBJECTIVES
• Provides information and referral services
• Provider of technical assistance
• Assist individuals with traumatic brain injury who have been denied services under Titles II and III of the ADA, or Fair Housing Act
• Review complaints and take appropriate action to ensure that state-supported residential services are appropriate and provided in the least restrictive environment
• Review allegations that educational services have been inappropriately reduced or terminated due to suspension or expulsion and take appropriate action to ensure their right to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
• Increase compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in relation to the Olmstead decision and Indiana’s community integration efforts
• Provide information about traumatic brain injuries and disability rights to those entities serving individuals with traumatic brain injury

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES
IPAS can help by:
• Helping you understand your rights
• Helping you learn self-advocacy skills
• Advising you on what steps you can take to secure your rights, such as appealing denials and filing complaints with appropriate governmental agencies
• Representing you with an IPAS Advocacy Specialist or IPAS Attorney to correct rights violations

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer and provides services to all individuals with disabilities within the guidelines set forth by federal legislation regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, ancestry or disability.

This brochure was (100%) funded by The Health Resources and Services Administration within The Department of Health and Human Services.
WHO IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)?

Anyone who has suffered a cranio-cerebral head trauma as an occurrence of injury to the head arising from blunt or penetrating trauma or from acceleration-deceleration forces that are associated with any of these symptoms or signs attributed to the injury:

- Decreased level of consciousness
- Amnesia
- Other neurologic or neuropsychologic abnormalities
- Skull fracture
- Diagnosed intracranial lesions

The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative, or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma.

ABOUT THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA (BIAI)

The mission of the Brain Injury Association of Indiana is to be an informative resource; to educate the public and professionals about brain injury; to advocate in the public policy arena on behalf of the brain injured population of Indiana; and to prevent brain injury. The vision of the Brain Injury Association of Indiana is to be widely known as the leading organization making the public and professionals aware of the needs of the brain injured and their family.

BIAI SUPPORT GROUPS

BIAI holds monthly support group meetings around the state of Indiana. The purpose of a support group is to learn more about brain injury and available services by meeting with others who are facing or have faced similar issues. The essential elements of a support group meeting are to:

- Gather information
- Share common needs and strengths
- Provide a place to find new friends and connections to the community
- Provide a place to find courage and take risks
- Provide an opportunity to socialize
- Provide an environment where positive and negative views can be expressed without being judged