



National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA)

## **Disability Advisory Group**

*To Empower and Include People with Disabilities in APS*

**Mission Statement:** *People with disabilities will lead and inform the Adult Protective Services (APS) field on how to positively impact the lives of people with disabilities who experience abuse, neglect and/or exploitation.*

**History:** Approximately 25-30% of reports made to Adult Protective Services (APS) involve people with disabilities. Recognizing the high rates of abuse among this population, the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) acted. In 2021, NAPSA started the Disability Inclusion in APS interest group to ensure that people with disabilities are included in conversations about APS.

In 2022, this group hosted a nationally attended webinar series, highlighting the importance of disability inclusiveness in APS. The group continues its efforts to empower individuals with disabilities. These efforts include improved outreach and specialized training for APS professionals on how to effectively support and protect people with disabilities.

### **Purpose & Goals:**

- Education for the field of APS
- Empower people with disabilities to SHINE THEIR LIGHT
- Outreach to people with disabilities regarding access to APS
- APS policy and funding advocacy

### **Data on abuse and people with disabilities:**

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience sexual assault 7 times more than people without disabilities.
- People with cognitive disabilities experienced the highest rate of total violent crime.
- [Crime Against Persons with Disabilities Statistical Tables:](https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/crime-against-persons-disabilities-2009-2019-statistical-tables)  
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### **Future Direction of NAPSA's Disability Advisory Group**

- Build a team of people with disabilities who can share their lived expertise in leading NAPSA and the APS field on how to help victims with disabilities.
- Ensure people with lived expertise are providing thought-leadership to NAPSA and the APS field to influence current and new public policy related to victims with disabilities.
- Identify and promote training for APS professionals working with people with disabilities.

**Sign up for the NAPSA newsletter by emailing [info@napsa-now.org](mailto:info@napsa-now.org), to keep up to date on disability inclusion in APS.**