

Brain Injury & Disability Resources

ABIN-PA InfoLine 800.516.8052
Abuse Reports—Age 0-18 800-932-0313
Abuse Reports—Age 18+ 800.490.8505
Aging/Disability Referrals 866.286.3636
Area Agency on Aging (blue pages)
BIAPA Resource Line 800.444.6443
BrainSTEPS (Local Intermediate Unit)
CareerLink (blue pages)
ChildrensHealthInsurance 800.986.5437
Consumer Protection 800.441.2555
Crime Victim's Benefits 800.233.2339
Defense & Veterans BIC 866.966.1020
Disability Rights Network 800.692.7443
DomesticViolence Hotline 800.799.7233
Elks Nurses (care plans) 814.781.7860
Epilepsy Foundation 800.887.7165
Head Injury Program 717.772.2762
(1 year of rehab, \$100,000 max)
Health Insurance www.healthcare.gov
or 800.318.2596
Health Law Project 800.274.3258
Independent Living Ctrs 717.364.1732
Legal Aid (PA) 800.322.7572
Legal Clinic for Disabled 215.587.3350
Meals on Wheels www.mealcall.org
Medical Assistance 800.537.8862
Medicare Coverage 800.633.4227
(Part A & B have in-home services)
Medicare Complaints 800.783.7067
Office of Vocational Rehab (blue pages)
OVR Complaints 888.745.2357
Social Security 800.772.1213
Special Ed Consult Line 800.879.2301
Special Kids Network 800.986.4550
Waiver Enrollment 877.550.4227
Waiver HelpLine 800.757.5042
Women's Law Project 215.928.9801

ABIN-PA Services

"Empowering Survivors & Families to Rebuild Their Lives."

InfoLine

Resources. Problem-solving. Support.

Advocacy

Individual. Government Affairs.
Nonprofit Coalitions & Collaboratives.

Education

Conferences. Presentations.
Staff Training.

Literature

Free Monthly Newsletter.
Brochures.
Booklets.
PowerPoints.

Website

Newsletter Archives & Sign-Up.
Print Literature.
"Our Stories."
Print Resource List by Birthdate.
Rehab Facility Search by Type.
Videos.

Brochure Categories

General
Children <21
Adults 18+
Families & Caregivers
Rehabilitation
Dual Diagnosis
Justice System

Brain Injury Advisory:
Justice System

DIVERT, 302 OR ACCOMMODATE



ABIN-PA is dedicated to increasing public awareness about acquired brain injury and to providing support, education, information, advocacy and other services for individuals with acquired brain injury and their families.

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA
InfoLine: 215.699.2139
Toll-Free: 1.800.516.8052
info@abin-pa.org
www.abin-pa.org

What is a brain injury?

Brain injury means an event injured or eliminated brain cells (neurons), causing disruption in the neural networks that control thinking, emotions, behavior, and/or bodily functions. As a result, events such as whiplash, a fall, assault, blast, stroke, infection, near choking, high fever, etc. can interfere with vision, memory, reasoning, attention, gait, impulsivity, fatigue, attention, etc.

How is it treated?

Survivors require help to learn about their injury, adjust emotionally to new limitations, re-train for lost skills, learn compensatory strategies and overcome fatigue. Some need coaching and cueing for everyday activities, and help with tasks like driving, shopping, cleaning or cooking. Some will need 24/7 supervision to be safe and protected from exploitation. Unfortunately, most do not get evidence-based care but are considered to be intellectually disabled, delinquent, mentally ill, offenders or demented.

Evidence-based brain injury rehab has been added to most insurance plans and state programs, but most adults and children have had none.

Current outcomes

Without rehabilitation, 1 in 3 adults and adolescents are arrested within 5 years of a traumatic brain injury. While 8.5% of the general population has had a brain injury, the PA number is 73% in prison & 50% in youth detention. Other studies show 20% of psychiatric inpatients, 85% of those with an IQ under 70 and 38 to 63% in substance abuse treatment programs (addictiontreatmentmagazine.com).

Divert into treatment

Just as with mental health and drug abuse treatment, rehabilitation for brain injury reduces repeat arrests.

- HELPS brain injury screening tool. Free online. Positives should be evaluated further to assess needs.
- 0-21—brain injury rehabilitation under Medical Assistance.
- 18-59—rehab in Independence or OBRA Waiver at 877.550.4227.
- 21+ with traumatic brain injury—rehab in one-year PA Head Injury Program at 717.772.2762.
- 21+ with traumatic brain injury—rehab in COMM CARE Waiver at 1.877.550.4227.
- Housing options—the Commcare, Independence and OBRA Waivers and the Head Injury Program.

Consider 302 Carefully

A person whose behavior is due to a brain injury will not receive evidence-based care under a 302 to a mental hospital. Once 302'd, the individual will have a legal (not medical) determination of mental illness under the Mental Health Procedures Act. Also, further mental health treatment is assured under PA Bulletin 94-04, Adult Priority Group, because the 302 supersedes all other factors.

Accommodations

Rules are of little use for those unable to learn or recall them. For inmates with brain injury, difficulties and recidivism can be reduced through identification, rehabilitation and changes in the environment and program. Individualized coaching and cueing will be necessary.

Prevent overload

Survivors easily experience cognitive overload, resulting in a biologic event called a catastrophic stress reaction (CSR). A CSR is marked by a change in behavior (loss of speech or motion, tears, anguish, screaming or violence) which must run its course to discharge the overload. (Avoid talking to or touching the person.)