

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

POLICE OFFICERS: TIPS & STRATEGIES



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?

The diagnosis of brain injury refers to changes in thinking, behavior and/or physical function due to the death or injury of brain cells or neurons. The cause may involve physical trauma (TBI), blast, whiplash, assault, high fever, stroke, brain surgery, cardiac arrest, drugs, poisoning, medication, blood loss, infection, anesthesia, or near electrocution, suffocation, or drowning.

Impact on others

A victim, suspect or inmate with an old or new brain injury may not be able to follow directions or give a statement. They may not remember or understand events. They usually can't think fast enough to respond to questions, conversation, rapid speech, noises, new situations, quick changes or commands. They may easily get upset or confused and then act in unexpected or unusual ways.

Divert into treatment

The HELPS brain injury screening tool is online. Traumatic brain injury rehabilitation is funded by the PA Head Injury Program (717.772.2762) and the Independence and Commcare Waivers (877.550.4227).

Any cognitive signs?

1. Thinks or reacts slowly.
2. Can't follow directions.
3. Doesn't answer or explain.
4. Struggles to find words.
5. Concrete thinking.
6. Can't rush or go any faster.
7. Disoriented and/or unaware.
8. Doesn't pay attention.
9. Ignores change of topics.
10. Memory problems.
11. Can't understand or decide.
12. Doesn't recognize or react to events, faces, places or things.

Are there physical signs?

1. Tracheotomy scar (base of throat)
2. Scars on head, misshapen.
3. Eyes don't line up together.
4. Reacts as if partially blind.
5. Extreme fatigue under stress.
5. Difficult or slurred speech.
6. Appears deaf or hard of hearing.
7. Awkward, difficulty walking, uneven gait or stumbling.
8. One or more limbs rigid, weak, spastic, or paralyzed.
9. Trembling or shaking.
10. Seizures of various types.
11. Unable to maintain balance.
12. Confusion on uneven ground.
13. Brain injury listed on medical bracelet, chain or wallet card.
14. Difficulty swallowing.

Emotional signs?

1. Anxious, easily frightened
2. Stunned when under stress.
3. Agitated in a group, anger.
4. Tears, laughter unexpected.

Unusual behavior?

1. Impulsive.
2. Response not reasonable.
3. Distracted by noise and lights.
4. Behavior unpredictable.

Helpful strategies

1. Minimize sirens, flashing lights.
2. Move slowly & calmly if possible.
3. Don't get any closer than needed.
4. Speak firmly but gently.
5. Use 2—5 words at a time.
6. Wait 3—5 seconds for an answer or response when possible.
7. Ask one part questions.
8. Give one step directions.
9. Repeat each direction until that step is complete (coaching).
10. Ask "Do you understand?"
11. Ask "Can you do this?"
12. Use hand gestures.
13. Call contact on wallet card or number on medical jewelry.
14. Seat the person to reduce fatigue and focus attention.
15. Test for substances, not for balance or mental acuity.