

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

What is the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)?

The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services provides and advocates for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families.

What are my rights?

- To apply for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services from DARS
- To receive notification in writing if you are denied a service or support you believe you need in order to have successful employment
- To appeal to your counselor's supervisor and request an Informal Administrative Review (IAR) if your requested service/support is denied
- To appeal to the Regional Director if your requested service/support is still denied
- To request Mediation or a Fair Hearing after you appeal to the Regional Director
 - Mediation is a confidential process where a neutral person trained in mediation techniques helps resolve disputes between you and DARS
 - During a Fair Hearing, both you and DARS may present evidence and witnesses, and the hearing officer will issue a written decision after the hearing is finished
- To make a direct complaint to the DARS Commissioner if you choose

How can dLCV help?

- Answer questions and explain your rights regarding the vocational rehabilitation process and DARS
- Help you work through your concerns with DARS staff
- Potentially represent your legal interests in negotiations, mediation, or the formal hearing process

How else can dLCV help?

dLCV can provide information about your legal rights under:

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- The Rehabilitation Act
- The Virginians with Disabilities Act
- Other state and federal disability related laws and regulations

Contact disAbility Law Center of Virginia

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dLCV publications are available in alternate format, upon request.

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