



**Adult Advocacy
Centers**

Acronyms and Terminology

AACs - Adult Advocacy Centers

The first centers in the world to provide forensic interviews, forensic nurse examiners and the coordination of a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) specifically developed for adult crime victims with disabilities. The AACs will pioneer disability-specific training and create groundbreaking services for victims with disabilities.

ADAMH/CMH - Alcohol, Drug Addition and Mental Health/Community Mental Health Boards

The boards provide planning, management and funding of mental health services in Ohio at the local level.

AG - Attorney General

The lawyer for the State of Ohio. The AG's office protects and provides services for businesses, consumers, government, law enforcement, legal professionals, military personnel, veterans, non-profits, schools, seniors and victims of crime in Ohio.

APS - Adult Protective Services

APS works at the county level, under the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. It is mandated to investigate reports of suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults ages 60 and above.

CRO - Client Rights Officer

Most mental health residential facilities have a CRO on staff, who helps with advocating for the rights of residents with mental health diagnoses.

DD Council - Developmental Disabilities Council

A planning and advocacy organization committed to creating change that improves independence, productivity and community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities in Ohio. They also award grants to promote the inclusion, health and safety of individuals with disabilities.

DRO - Disability Rights Ohio

DRO is Ohio's Protection & Advocacy System, also referred to as a P&A. Each state and U.S. territory is required to have an P&A to protect individuals with disabilities by empowering them

and advocating on their behalf. DRO also conducts investigations into allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation against people with disabilities.

DODD - Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

The state department for Ohioans with developmental and intellectual disabilities oversees a statewide system of supportive services that focus on ensuring health and safety, supporting access to community participation, and increasing opportunities for meaningful employment. DODD also conducts investigations into reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation against people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

FI - Forensic Interview

A forensic interview is a structured conversation that is designed to gather detailed information about an event or events that a crime victim may have witnessed or experienced. This information can often be used as evidence in a criminal investigation.

FNE - Forensic Nurse Examiner

A Forensic Nurse Examiner is a specially trained nurse who collects physical evidence from a victim or survivor of a crime.

IA - Investigative Agents

Investigative Agents are the certified investigators at the county board of developmental disabilities who investigate Major Unusual Incidents (MUI).

Long-Term Care Ombudsman

An office under the Department of Aging that advocates for people receiving home care, assisted living and nursing home care. The office works with providers, residents and their families to resolve problems and concerns.

MDT(s) - Multi-Disciplinary Team(s)

A team made up of professionals with different backgrounds, focused on a shared goal. The MDT members collaborate and are usually guided by a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that includes balanced power by the members and the development and use of protocols to formalize the process.

MOU - Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of understanding is a signed agreement between two or more parties.

MUI - Major Unusual Incident

MUIs are when a person with a disability is hurt or may be hurt by someone or something. It can include, but is not limited to, abuse, theft, neglect and death. For example, if a person with

a disability did not receive the medical care they needed, was hurt, and had to go to the hospital, that would be an MUI. MUIs are investigated by investigative agents at each county board of developmental disabilities. The county board would investigate to find out who was responsible and try to make sure the person with a disability was safe and would not be hurt again.

OAC - Ohio Administrative Code

The rules for how state agencies will run. Ohio's state agencies create rules to carry out the laws passed by the state's legislative branch, the Ohio General Assembly.

OCAPS - Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services

A statewide coalition that strives to enhance the provision of services to adults at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation through education and advocacy.

ODA - Ohio Department of Aging

The Ohio Department of Aging focuses on choice, independence and quality of life for aging Ohioians with an emphasis on community-based options.

ODH - Ohio Department of Health

The Ohio Department of Health protects and improves the health of all Ohioans by preventing disease, promoting good health and assuring access to quality care. ODH investigates allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation at facilities through its survey process.

OhioMHAS - Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

The state of Ohio's agency that promotes and establishes mental health as a cornerstone of health and wellness for individuals, families and communities.

ORC - Ohio Revised Code

The general laws of the state of Ohio.

State Highway Patrol

Investigates allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation at the state-operated psychiatric hospitals and developmental centers.

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