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**CHAPTER 14: CHILDREN'S CHOICE**

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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY LAW**

A developmental disability is defined by the Developmental Disability Law (Louisiana Revised Statutes 28:451.1-28:455.2). The law states that a developmental disability means either:

1. A severe chronic disability of a person that:
  2. Is attributable to an intellectual or physical impairment or combination of intellectual and physical impairments;
  3. Is manifested before the person reaches age twenty-two;
  4. Is likely to continue indefinitely;
  5. Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:
    - a. Self-care;
    - b. Receptive and expressive language;
    - c. Learning;
    - d. Mobility;
    - e. Self-direction;
    - f. Capacity for independent living; and
    - g. Economic self-sufficiency.
  6. Is not attributed solely to mental illness;
  7. Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated;
- OR**
8. A substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition in a person from birth through age nine which, without services and support, has a high

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probability of resulting in those criteria listed above later in life that may be considered to be a developmental disability.