

**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:

- A severe chronic disability of a person that:
- Is attributable to an intellectual or physical impairment or combination of intellectual and physical impairments;
- Is manifested before the person reaches age twenty-two;
- Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:
  - Self-care;
  - Receptive and expressive language;
  - Learning;
  - Mobility;
  - Self-direction;
  - Capacity for independent living; and
  - Economic self-sufficiency.
- Is not attributed solely to mental illness; and
- 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**

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