



Protection and Advocacy for Native Americans with Disabilities

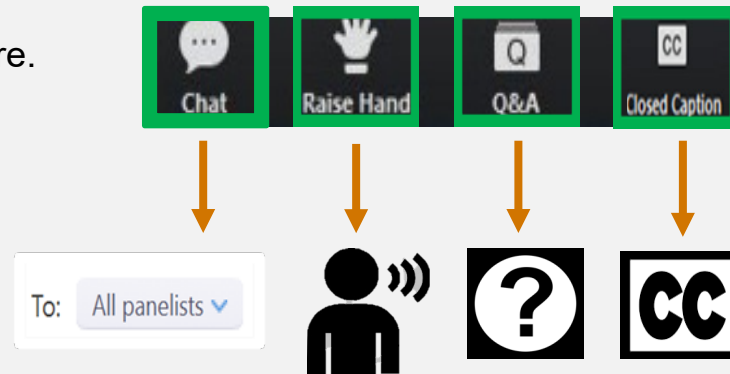
October 25, 2023

Technical Notes and Support

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Enjoy the session!





Disclaimer

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Webinar Objectives

- Help webinar attendees understand and acknowledge disability from a Native perspective
- Explain how congregate facilities are monitored for abuse and neglect
- Share outreach and advocacy success stories

Today's Presenters



Hoskie Benally
Diné – Navajo Nation
Community and Government Liaison
Native American Disability Law Center



Benita McKerry
Diné – Navajo Nation
Advocate
Native American Disability Law Center



About the Law Center

- Private and independent nonprofit agency
- Helps protect the legal rights of Native Americans with disabilities who live in the Four Corners of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah





What We Do

Provide advocacy, referral information, and educational resources to all Native Americans with disabilities living in the Four Corners region

- Monitor facilities on the Navajo Nation (group homes, detention centers, etc.) to make sure people with disabilities are provided with the services they need in the least restrictive environment
- Provide legal advocacy and representation in disability-related discrimination (housing, employment, education, voting, etc.)
- Provide advocacy and legal representation to Native American students with disabilities in education-related issues

Types of Cases and Issues We Refer Elsewhere

Law Center Does NOT accept the following issues but, does make referrals:

- Criminal cases → Public defender/attorney
- Divorce cases → DNA People's Legal Services
- Child custody cases → DNA People's Legal Services
- Social Security benefits → Social Security Administration





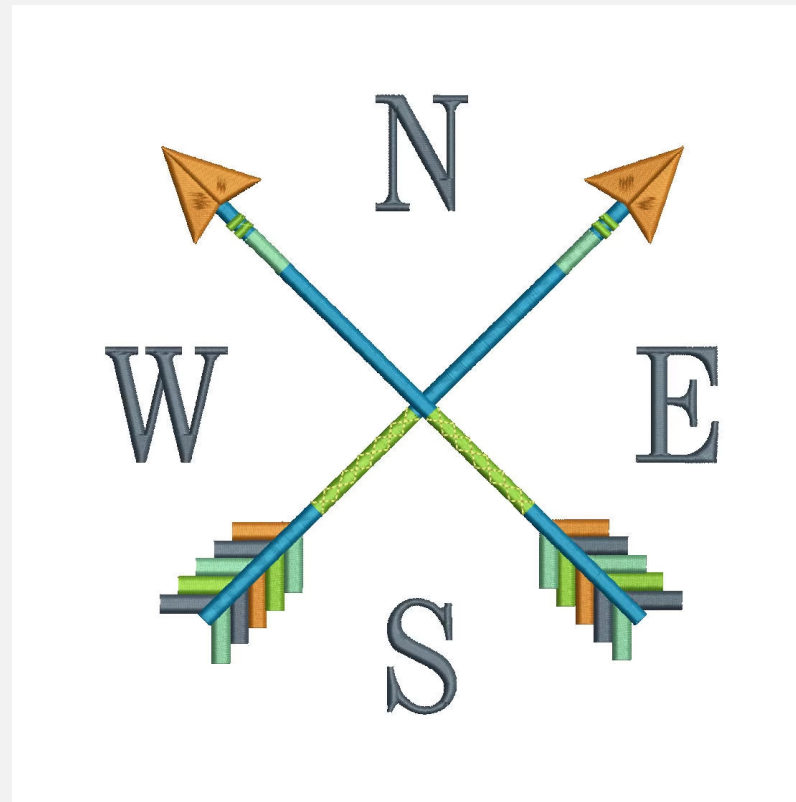
Understanding and Acknowledging Disability from a Native Perspective



Medicine Wheel and Introduction to Self-Advocacy

Shadow

Footprint



Voice

Hands



National Council on Disability

May 2024 – Public Forum

“This is a great opportunity for Native Americans with disabilities to share their experiences and to self-advocate on a national level.” ~ Mr. Hoskie Benally, member of the National Council on Disability

Benefits Enrollment Center

Serving Native American elders and adults with disabilities since 2018, Benefits Enrollment Centers focus on connecting Medicare beneficiaries with limited incomes to benefits that pay for health care, food, and more.



Success Story

We assisted Ben, a 36-year-old Navajo man with a traumatic brain injury from Gallup, New Mexico. Ben is:

- A single parent of two, and
- Is self-employed, making and selling jewelry.

Ben contacted the Law Center's Benefits Enrollment Center to get assistance with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

We were able to assist Ben by filling out the SNAP application online—additionally, Ben qualified for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, Medicaid, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

During the past 11 months, the Law Center has helped 226 elders and adults with disabilities receive the benefits for which they are eligible.



Contacting the Law Center



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Questions?



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