



**Disability Rights New Jersey or DRNJ** is a private, non-profit, consumer-driven organization that advocates for and advances the rights of individuals with disabilities through a broad range of legal and advocacy services. DRNJ serves as New Jersey's designated protection and advocacy system for individuals with disabilities, including individuals who have survived a brain injury.

## **Brain Injury**

According to the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), "brain injury refers to an injury in which an insult to the brain causes damage to the brain. Brain injuries are often described as traumatic or acquired based on the cause of the injury."

**Traumatic brain injury (TBI)** is an injury to the brain caused by external physical force. Some causes of TBI include motor vehicle accidents, falls, sports injuries and concussions. A TBI may be mild or severe and result in short or long term cognitive, physical, or emotional impairment.

**Acquired brain injury (ABI)** is an injury to the brain caused by certain medical conditions, including strokes, encephalitis, aneurysms, anoxia (lack of oxygen), metabolic disorders, meningitis, or brain tumors.

## **Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)**

This DRNJ program ensures that individuals with **traumatic brain injuries** or **acquired brain injuries** and their families have access to:

- Information, referrals, and technical assistance
- Individual and family advocacy
- Legal representation
- Support and assistance for self-advocacy

**DRNJ offers other programs and services that may be of assistance to individuals with brain injury and their families in the following areas:**

Assistive Technology  
Healthcare

Employment  
Abuse and Neglect

Individual Rights  
Discrimination

## Brain Injury Resources

**New Jersey Division of Disability Services (DDS):** serves as a single point of entry for people with disabilities in New Jersey requiring information and/or services. DDS also administers a number of programs including:

- The **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Fund** for individuals who have survived a brain injury caused by external physical force.
- The **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Medicaid Waiver** for Medicaid eligible individuals, aged 22-65 with a brain injury who meet the State's nursing facility level of care standard.

Contact: (888) 285-3036 toll-free

Website: [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds)

**Brain Injury Association of New Jersey:** provides family support, advocacy, and education to people with a brain injury and family members.

Contact: (800) 669-4323 or (732) 745-0200, or visit [www.bianj.org](http://www.bianj.org)

**Brainline.org:** provides information about preventing, treating, and living with brain injury. Contact: (703) 998-2020 or visit [www.brainline.org](http://www.brainline.org)

**The National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury:** provides practical information to people with a brain injury and family members.

Contact: (804) 828-9055 or visit [www.neuro.pmr.vcu.edu](http://www.neuro.pmr.vcu.edu)

**Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC):** provides active duty military, veterans and family members information about brain injuries.

Contact: (800) 870-9244 or visit [www.dvbic.org](http://www.dvbic.org)

**Brain Injury Family Resources Blog:** provides family members of brain injury survivor's advice, information and resources. [www.braininjuryfamily.net](http://www.braininjuryfamily.net)

**Medline Plus:** provides information about brain injury, including access to medical journal articles related to brain injury.

[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/traumaticbraininjury.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/traumaticbraininjury.html)

Disability Rights New Jersey

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Member, National Disability Rights Network