

# Your Rights as a Parent with a Disability

A Guide to the SC Persons with Disabilities Right to Parent Act

## What are my rights?

As a parent or prospective parent with a disability, you have the same rights to raise children as nondisabled people!

To ensure that your rights are not violated, the Persons with Disabilities Right to Parent Act\* requires:

- Ensuring reasonable efforts are made to prevent your child from being removed from your care.
- Providing you with individualized parenting services and supports **before** your child is removed from your care.
- If your child has been removed from your care, ensuring reasonable efforts are made to reunite you and your child.
- Ensuring that no agency in the U.S. prevents you from adopting a child on the basis of your disability.
- Educating you about adaptive parenting equipment.
- Referring you to instruction for adaptive parenting techniques.
- Allowing you to have reasonable accommodations.

***It is illegal for any person, agency, or organization to terminate your rights as a parent or legal guardian, or prevent you from adopting or fostering a child, solely on the basis of your disability.***

\*Parents with disabilities also have rights under the Rehabilitation Act & the Americans with Disabilities Act!



## Who is a parent with a disability?

Under South Carolina's Persons with Disabilities Right to Parent Act, you are protected if you are a person with a disability who is a:

- Biological parent
- Current or prospective adoptive parent
- Current or prospective foster parent
- Current or prospective guardian

A person with a disability includes a person with:

- Physical disabilities
- Intellectual disabilities
- Hearing/vision disabilities
- Mental health disabilities
- Sensory disabilities
- Neurological disabilities
- And more!

***Current drug and/or alcohol abuse does not count as a disability.***

## *Adaptive parenting equipment, techniques, and reasonable accommodations can help parents with disabilities!*

**Adaptive Parenting Equipment** are items that can help to increase, maintain, or improve your parenting skills! Such as:

- Infant sling or tray to assist a wheelchair user to carry their child.
- Smart Home assistants, like Google Home or Alexa, to set reminders for parents with memory disabilities.
- Baby monitors that flash when sounds are made to alert Deaf parents.

**Adaptive Parenting Techniques** are strategies to help you safely perform parenting tasks! Such as:

- Putting bells on a child's shoes to help Blind parents know their child's location.
- Listening to relaxing music when stressed for parents with anxiety.
- Moving "floor time" to a bed or parents who cannot sit on the floor.

**Reasonable Accommodations** are individualized modifications or adjustments to policies, practices, procedures, and spaces to allow parents with disabilities to have an equal opportunity to raise their children.

**Reasonable accommodations can include:** parenting classes taught in "plain language" for parents with intellectual disabilities, performing assessments at home instead of an unfamiliar environment for parents with physical or intellectual disabilities, using service coordination to assist parents with cognitive disabilities, and parenting books provided in an audio format for people with vision or learning disabilities.



## **Need Help?**

If you are concerned that your rights have been violated or want to learn more about your rights as a parent with a disability, contact us!

Email us at: [advocacy@able-SC.org](mailto:advocacy@able-SC.org)

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