



DISABILITY LAW & ADVOCACY CENTER
of Tennessee

SOCIAL WORKER? ATTORNEY? LET'S GET TOGETHER... COLLABORATING FOR A CHANGE



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Some Lawyerly Language

(Seriously-social workers don't generally do this)



- This presentation is intended to provide you with some general information about attorney/social worker collaboration. Nothing in this presentation is legal advice.
- For advice regarding a specific situation, contact your attorney.



Topics

- Us—Who?!
- DLAC—What?!
- Attorney? Social Worker? Working together...
Part 1—Why?!
- The possibilities are endless...
Part 2—How?!



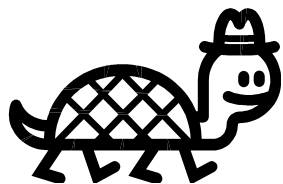
About Us

Martie:

- C6HO
- Divinity is not just a type of candy + crossing the courtyard
- Has it really been that long?
- TFHC
- DLAC
- Primary Practice Area
- What's with the turtle?

Angela:

- ECD → SW
- From singing silly helping songs to helping people sing
- CCF
- BIAT
- DLAC
- Areas of concentration over the years
- What's with the tractor?



DISABILITY LAW & ADVOCACY CENTER
of Tennessee



Disability Law & Advocacy Center

**Disability Law & Advocacy Center of TN (DLAC)
advocates for the rights of Tennesseans with disabilities to
ensure that they have an equal opportunity to be productive
and respected members of our society.**



DISABILITY LAW & ADVOCACY CENTER
of Tennessee



Contact:
Phone: 1.800.342.1660
Email: GetHelp@dlacTN.org

About DLAC

DLAC is part of the National Protection & Advocacy System (P&A)—network of 57 federally mandated legally based disability rights agencies

- Operates statutory programs which mandate serving particular disability populations or issues
- Ex.: Protection & Advocacy for Developmental Disabilities (PADD)
- Ex.: Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)



P&A System Today

The P&A system helps ensure compliance with federal disability rights laws such as:

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Rehabilitation Act
- Fair Housing Act
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act
- Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act
- Architectural Barriers Act
- Help America Vote Act



Setting Priorities

- To ensure that DLAC meets the most critical needs of the disability community in TN, it is required to develop annual priorities (areas of work) with input from the public.
- Focus groups, surveys, and outreach activities throughout Tennessee provide valuable feedback on our annual priorities and objectives.
- We concentrate our work in three strategic areas:
 - Freedom from Harm
 - Freedom from Discrimination
 - Freedom to Participate in the Community



DLAC Services

FREE legally based advocacy services to protect the human and civil rights of persons with disabilities:

- ▣ Information & Referral
- ▣ Investigation of Abuse & Neglect
- ▣ Advocacy Services
- ▣ Legal Representation
- ▣ Education & Outreach
- ▣ Public Policy Advocacy



DLAC Locations

DLAC is a statewide organization.

Three offices to serve each Grand Division.

- ▣ West TN: Memphis
- ▣ Middle TN: Nashville
- ▣ East TN: Knoxville



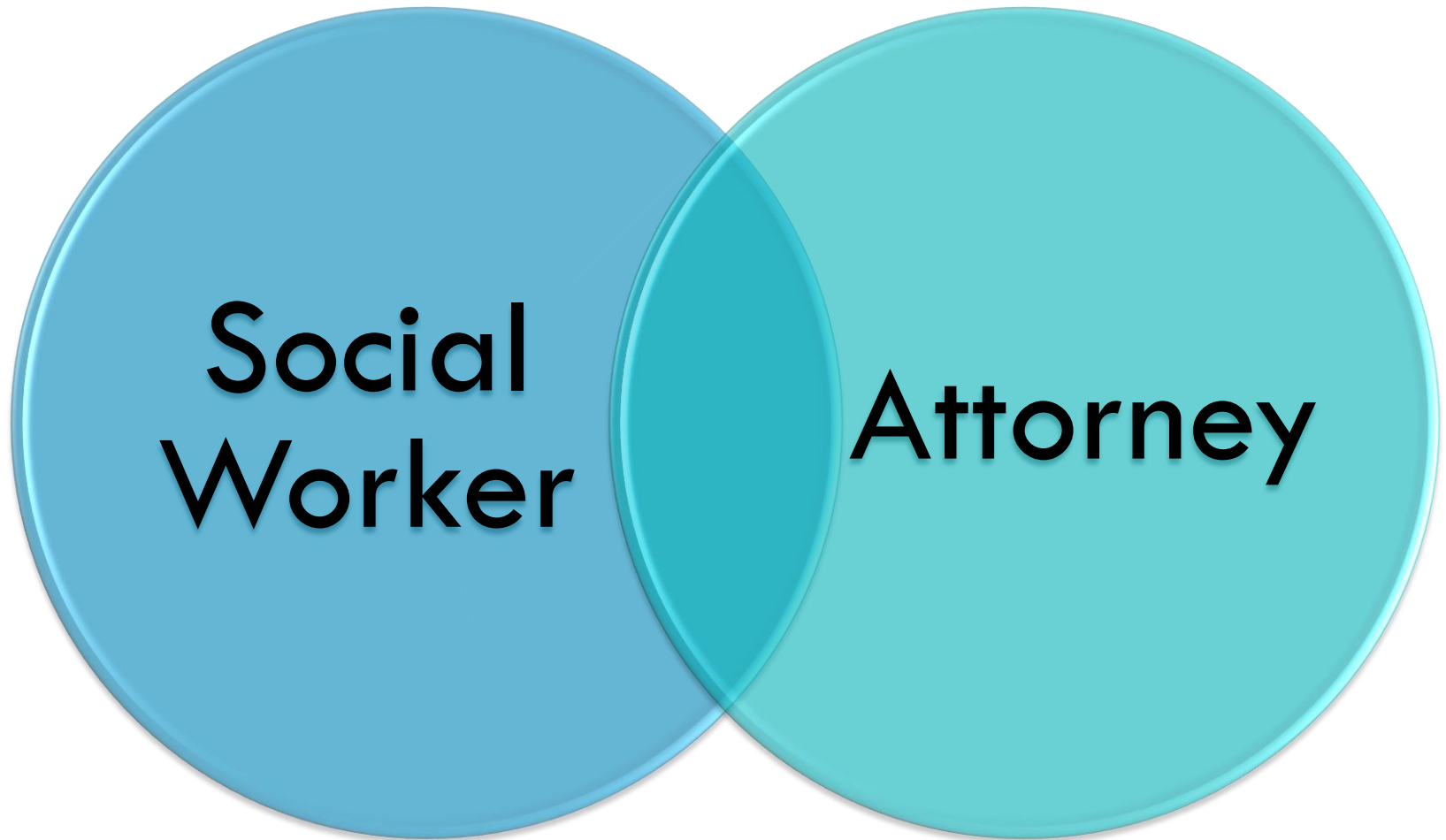
Benefits of collaborative work

- Expanded holistic approach
- Increased efficiency of service delivery
- Ease of access/link for clients
- Resolution of interrelated issues
- Broader impact
- Systems change (client, community, etc.)

NOTE: Benefits may vary by agency/staffing situation



Overlap



Let's talk about it...

- Similarities?
- Differences?
- Drawbacks?
- Benefits?



Are we so very different?

	Social Workers	Attorneys
Areas of practice and expertise vary	√	√
Bound by a code of professional ethics	√	√
Serve clients	√	√
Limits to confidentiality	√	√
Systems change efforts	√	√
Conflict of interest	√	√



We'll talk about what we know...

DLAC Roles

Attorney		Social worker (Advocate)
????	Client cases	?????
????	Investigations	????
????	Collaborations	????
????	Systemic Activities	????
????	Policy Advocacy	????



Our example: Public Policy Advocacy

EDUCATE

- People with Disabilities
- Policy Makers
- Members of the Public

BY

- Issuing Position Statements
- Writing Op-Eds
- Submitting Public Comments
- Drafting Legislation



QUESTIONS

????????????



Thank You!

CONTACT US

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