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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Richmond 23219

Mills E. Godwin, Jr.
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER FIFTY-FIVE (77)

ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE OFFICE FOR VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor, I hereby establish the State Office for the Virginia Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy System within the Office of the Secretary of Human Resources. This office shall report to the Secretary of Human Resources, who shall appoint its Director.

In accordance with Section 113 of Public Law 94-103, the office will have the authority to pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies to insure the protection of the rights of such persons who are receiving treatment, services, or habilitation within the State, in accordance with the State's Protection and Advocacy Plan. The office shall be independent of any State agency which provides treatment, services, or habilitation to persons with developmental disabilities.

The State Office for the Virginia Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy System shall:

- (1) Administer implementation of the State Plan in accordance with relevant State and Federal laws.
- (2) Provide access for persons who are developmentally disabled to appropriate administrative or legal remediation of their needs.
- (3) Advise the Secretary of the implications of changes in State or Federal law on services provided by the State to persons who are developmentally disabled.

- (4) Prepare the annual State Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy Plan.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this fifteenth day of August, 1977.

Walter G. Anderson, Jr.
Governor

Attested:

Patricia R. Parkinson
Secretary of the Commonwealth

