

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY LAW

A developmental disability is defined by the Developmental Disability Law (Revised Statutes [28:451.1-28:455.228.452.1](#)). The law states that a developmental disability means either:

1. A severe chronic disability of a person that:
 - a. Is attributable to an intellectual or physical impairment or combination of intellectual and physical impairments;
 - b. Is manifested before the person reaches age twenty-two;
 - c. Is likely to continue indefinitely;
 - d. Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:
 - i. Self-care;
 - ii. Receptive and expressive language;
 - iii. Learning;
 - iv. Mobility;
 - v. Self-direction;
 - vi. Capacity for independent living; or
 - vii. Economic self-sufficiency.
 - e. Is not attributed solely to mental illness; and
 - f. Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, generic care, treatment, or other services, which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

OR

2. A substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition in a person from birth through age nine which, without services and support, has a high

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probability of resulting in criteria that, later in life, may be considered to be a developmental disability.