

MEMORANDUM 2025-20

Terminology Relating to Persons with Disabilities (Status Report)

The Legislature enacted AB 1906 in 2024, which added Section [8290.7](#) to the Government Code and directs the Commission¹ to study and recommend nonsubstantive replacement of the terms “dependent adult” and “dependent person” throughout California codes with more respectful terminology.²

Section 8290.7 also directs the Commission in conducting this study to convene and obtain input from a working group comprised of two specifically identified agencies, along with two more broadly described categories of stakeholders.³

At the last Commission meeting, the staff indicated it would begin work on the assigned study by forming this working group and thereafter conducting a series of meetings to discuss how to best fulfill the study objectives.⁴ The staff has since pursued a number of avenues to identify and confirmed the participation of multiple organizations in the group and expects to begin meeting with these participants within the next few weeks.

The following entities have agreed to be part of this working group to date:

Disability Rights California
California Department of Social Services
The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) California Collaboration (bill sponsor)
USC Center for Elder Justice
Statewide Disability Advisory Council
California Department of Rehabilitation

1. Any California Law Revision Commission document referred to in this memorandum can be obtained from the Commission. Recent materials can be downloaded from the Commission’s website (www.clrc.ca.gov). Other materials can be obtained by contacting the Commission’s staff.

The Commission welcomes written comments at any time during its study process. Any comments received will be a part of the public record and may be considered at a public meeting. However, comments that are received less than five business days prior to a Commission meeting may be presented without staff analysis.

2. [2024 Cal. Stat. ch. 233 \(AB 1906\)](#).

3. The directive to the Commission provides, in Section 8290.7(c)(2), that the working group include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) The state protection and advocacy agency (which at the present time is Disability Rights California).
- (b) The State Department of Social Services.
- (c) Groups representing persons who are described by the current definitions of “dependent adults” and “dependent persons.”
- (d) Persons who are described by the current definitions of “dependent adults” or “dependent persons.”

4. See [Memorandum 2025-10](#), p. 4; [Memorandum 2025-12](#), p. 5.

State Council for Developmental Disabilities
California Department of Developmental Services
California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association
Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)
California Disability Services Organization
California Department on Aging
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)

The staff will report back to the Commission on the progress of the working group at the next Commission meeting.

Does the Commission have any questions it wishes to ask or direction to offer the staff at this time?

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Cohen
Senior Staff Counsel