

**Diana Cafferty**

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**From:** Prosper, Vera (AGING) [Vera.Prosp@aging.ny.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2015 4:49 PM  
**Subject:** Survey of Individuals with Disabilities

## **NEW YORK STATE LEGAL SERVICES INITIATIVE**

**Initiative's Collaborating Partnership**  
**NY State Office for the Aging**  
**NY State Bar Association**  
**NY State Office of Court Administration**  
**NY State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities**

June 2015

Dear Colleague:

We are seeking your assistance in implementing a survey of New York residents of all ages with all types of disabilities, including:

Physical, mental health, cognitive, developmental or intellectual, chronic medical or health conditions, or other impairments, frailties, or conditions — that limit an individual's ability to perform activities of daily living without assistance from other people, devices, or equipment.

### **This Survey: A statewide activity of the Legal Services Initiative:**

- The questionnaire is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MW7ZCD9>.
- The survey of New Yorkers with disabilities is one of seven surveys conducted under the auspices of the New York State Legal Services Initiative.
- The Initiative's survey project is in response to growing reports of the gaps and limitations people with disabilities, older adults, and informal caregivers experience when seeking assistance with civil legal matters. The Initiative's intent is to undertake activities that will advance the availability, affordability, and accessibility of legal assistance for these three population groups.
- Six of the Initiative's surveys are completed. A description of the Legal Services Initiative, and the Report of Findings for the six completed surveys is available at <http://www.aging.ny.gov/LivableNY/LegalServices/Isireportfindings.cfm>.

### **Purpose of the Disabilities Survey:**

- The survey of individuals with disabilities is being conducted to gather a larger, more representative response from New Yorkers with diverse types of disabilities than was gained from the Initiative's initial six surveys. The goal is to provide a more comprehensive description of this population group, in order to:
  - Better understand the legal service needs of individuals with disabilities.
  - Better understand the extent to which legal services are available, affordable, and accessible for New Yorkers with disabilities.

### **Survey Questionnaire:**

- Title: Statewide Survey of New York Residents Who Have One or More Disability, Impairment, or Condition That Limits their Ability to Perform the Routine Activities of Daily Living Without the Assistance of Other People, Devices, or Equipment.
- For New Yorkers with disabilities: All age groups, all types of disabilities.

- Living at home, in the community, or in a licensed or certified residence or facility.
- The survey questionnaire is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MW7ZCD9> for completion on line.

Or, the questionnaire's on-line Sections can be printed, completed manually, and mailed to:  
 Disabilities survey—Prosper  
 NY State Office for the Aging  
 2 Empire State Plaza  
 Albany, NY 12223

If you wish to have a **paper copy of the questionnaire** in order to fill it out by hand, please contact Vera Prosper at: [vera.prosper@aging.ny.gov](mailto:vera.prosper@aging.ny.gov) or 518-474-4382.

- The questionnaire itself contains a Statement of Assurances for respondents (see a copy below).

**We need your help:**

- There is not a comprehensive list of New Yorkers with disabilities from which a random-sample-selection process can be used to conduct the survey and produce findings that are statistically representative of the disabilities population as a whole.
- Without such a process, the most accurate picture of the population with disabilities relies on the largest survey-response-rate possible through a statewide distribution of the survey instrument. The larger the response rate, the better the picture.
- **Our request:** As a means of reaching out to as many people with disabilities, their families, their informal caregivers, their advocates, and their service providers as possible:  
 We are asking for your assistance in distributing the information in this memo and the survey questionnaire's web site link to the individuals, organizations, and groups on your listserv, client list, membership list, or other communication listing.  
 Please strongly encourage the individuals with disabilities to participate in the survey, and strongly encourage the organizations and groups to distribute the information to their clients, members, and others.

The link to the survey form is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MW7ZCD9>.

- If you have any questions regarding the survey or the Legal Services Initiative, please contact Vera Prosper at: [vera.prosper@aging.ny.gov](mailto:vera.prosper@aging.ny.gov) or 518-474-4382

Statement of Assurances (which is included in the questionnaire):

**STATEMENT of ASSURANCES for survey respondents:**

**VOLUNTARY:**

Completion of this survey is completely voluntary.

**ANONYMITY:**

The survey is anonymous; your name or affiliation will not be identified with the survey information you submit. All survey findings will be reported in the aggregate and will not be identified with any individual questionnaire.

**USE OF THE SURVEY FINDINGS:**

The findings from this survey of individuals with disabilities, impairments, or conditions that limit their ability to conduct the routine activities of daily living without assistance will provide the basis for the Legal Services

Initiative's partnership to implement activities that are meant to advance the availability, affordability, and accessibility of legal assistance for older adults, people of all ages with disabilities, and informal caregivers.

This survey is one of seven surveys conducted by the NY State Legal Services Initiative as a means of better understanding the legal service needs of New York's residents and the extent to which legal services are available, affordable, and accessible for the State's residents.

The results of this survey of individuals with disabilities will be added to the Initiative's Report of Findings, which provides the results of the Initiative's first six surveys and is available on the Legal Services Initiative web site at <http://www.aging.ny.gov/LivableNY/LegalServices/Isireportfindings.cfm>.

**QUESTIONS:**

If you have any questions about the Legal Services Initiative or this survey, please contact Vera Prosper at: 518-474-4382 or [vera.prosper@aging.ny.gov](mailto:vera.prosper@aging.ny.gov).

**Vera Prosper, PhD**

Director, NY State Legal Services Initiative

**New York State Office for the Aging**

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