

A Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

is caused by an *external physical force*. It usually happens when the head hits something- the floor during a fall, a windshield during a car crash, or a bullet from a gun. However, shock waves from an explosion, shaking a baby, and whiplash from a car accident can also cause a TBI.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

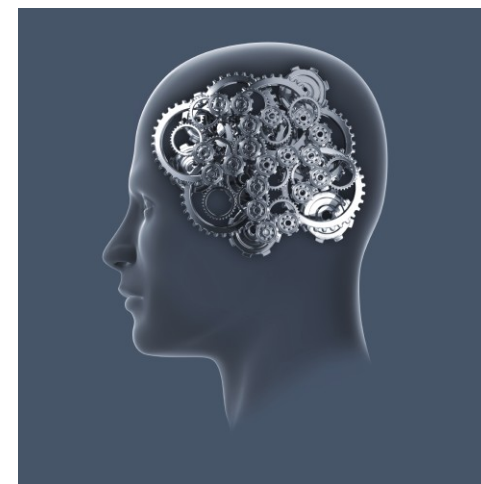
defines TBI as “an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external force resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance... The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative, or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma”.



The Brain Injury Association of North Carolina Ombudsman Program is a program made up of volunteers that have personal experience, education, or understanding of a person living with a brain injury.

www.bianc.net

The Brain Injury Association Of North Carolina OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

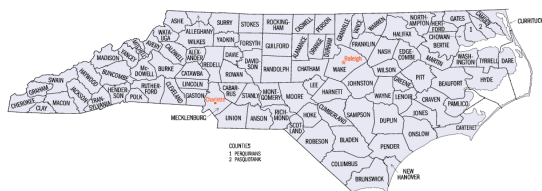


Looking for Help?
Contact an Ombudsman.

800-377-1464 or 919-651-9760

sunzon@nc.rr.com

Serving all 100 Counties of North Carolina



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mh/dd/sas

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*Advocates for
Traumatic Brain Injury
Survivors and Their
Families*

What is a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Ombudsman?

- Ombudsmen help people with TBI and their families find support, resources, and information
- Ombudsmen are volunteers who advocate for the rights of TBI survivors and their family members
- Ombudsmen provide outreach activities aimed at greater understanding of TBI in the community
- Ombudsmen help TBI survivors residing in facilities investigate concerns expressed by the TBI survivor, their family members, caregivers, and/or concerned citizens

What Does an Ombudsman Do?

- Provide peer support to TBI survivors and their family members
- Document concerns relating to the treatment of TBI survivors made by/on behalf of survivors
- Collect and report data regarding the number/type of concerns handled and program activities
- Carry out activities designed for education and prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Provide information to public agencies, legislators, and others on problems impacting the rights of TBI survivors/residents

Who May Need an Ombudsman?

- Family members of a person with a TBI needing support
- Resident in a nursing home/adult care home who has a TBI
- Student with a TBI who needs help getting services in school
- Individual with TBI needing assistance connecting to services
- Anyone seeking information or training regarding TBI issues

Ombudsman is a Swedish term that means “Citizen Advocate”.

Call for peer support, a complaint, referral and information, or to request training on brain injuries.

Ombudsman services are free and confidential.

