Audience: Administrative Entity (AE) Administrators or Directors, State Center Facility Directors, Supports Coordination Organizations (SCO), Non-State Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/ID) Directors and Providers of services to people with developmental disabilities.

PURPOSE: The Disabilities Rights Network (DRN) provides legal, policy, and advocacy services necessary to protect the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. The Developmental Disabilities Act and its implementing regulations, 45 CFR 1386, confer this authority upon DRN. On February 13, 2009, ODP issued Bulletin 00-08-15 Disability Rights Network Access to Records and Joint Investigation to communicate DRN’s authority to protect the rights of and to advocate for individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

Discussion: This informational memo serves as a reminder of the requirements in Bulletin 00-08-15. Please take this time to review Bulletin 00-08-15 for important information about:

- Procedures for DRN site visits;
- DRN access to records;
- ODP/DRN joint investigation protocol; and,
- DRN’s range of authority, including the right to reasonable, unaccompanied access to public and private facilities that provide services, supports, and other assistance for individuals with developmental disabilities.

DRN will continue to conduct activities so that minimal disruption to daily or scheduled activities occurs. Additionally, for the safety of the site and individuals, DRN advocates will verify their identities when accessing facilities. Facility staff may contact DRN at: 1-800-692-7443 to verify community advocates’ identities or with any questions related to DRN.