

PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL AT
DISABILITY RIGHTS TEXAS (DRTx) MEETINGS

The following policies apply to the Public Comment portion of the agenda at all regular quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors of DRTx.

1. A specific start and end time for public comment will be included in the agenda for the meeting, as determined by the Chair. The notice of meeting will conform to requirements of the DRTx bylaws including the agenda, and be distributed to interested persons and organizations on a distribution list maintained by DRTx for such purpose. Any individual and/or organization may request to be included on this distribution list.
2. Individuals wishing to provide public comment must sign a sign-up sheet prior to the start of the public comment period of the agenda, and provide their name, mailing address, telephone number, the name of any affiliated organization for which they have been authorized to provide comment (if any), and the general topic or issue on which they desire to comment. A copy of this protocol will be available with the sign-up sheet.
3. Each person will be allowed 5 minutes to provide comment; provided, however, that if the number of persons who sign-up times 5 minutes exceeds the length of the public comment portion of the agenda, the Chair shall equally apportion the time among the persons who have signed up to comment. Written materials of any length may be provided to the Board, whether or not the person submitting the materials has signed up to comment.
4. Board members should listen to comments, and not interrupt or otherwise respond to comments. At the close of the public comment period, Board members may direct questions or comments to the Chair, who will give direction to the Executive Director regarding followup with any particular person providing comment or information about the topic or issue on which a person has provided comment.
5. Personal attacks on Board members or others, comments which are or would tend to be considered profane or otherwise unacceptable, and issues involving current or former employees and their employment status or relationship to DRTx are not appropriate for comment, and may be halted and excluded at the discretion of the Chair.
6. The Chair will reasonably accommodate the needs of persons with a disability in providing comment; provided, however, that the person needing an accommodation must request such accommodation directed to the Executive Director no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled commencement of the meeting.