

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**CONTACT:**

**Carolyn Grawi**

**(734) 417-7732**



## **CIL Disability Resource Center changes name back to Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida; Hosts online anniversary campaign**

The Center's 40th anniversary celebration will take place on Facebook and be titled "Honoring Our Past, Planning Our Future."

**PENSACOLA, FL-** On behalf of the consumers served, and all people with disabilities, the CIL Disability Resource Center is honored to extend to the public an invitation to celebrate **the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CIL Disability Resource Center, titled "Honoring Our Past, Planning Our Future"** through their online campaign located on their [Facebook page](#). This campaign will occur between July 1st - 31st. The CIL Disability Resource Center has an exciting schedule planned of fun and entertaining videos that will be in the style of TikTok, online auctions, educational pieces, thought provoking stories, quick sign language tutorials, interactive activities, music, giveaways, and more.

**In honor of the past and the desire to move forward, the CIL Disability Resource Center will be changing back to its original name – the Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida. This will include a new logo and branding.**

On Wednesday, July 15 from 5:00-7:00 pm the Center for Independent Living will be hosting a virtual Sheriff's candidate forum. The forum will focus on questions regarding the sheriff's office and the disability community. There will also be time for a question and answer session.

The Center for Independent Living will host a virtual keynote speaker on Friday, July 31 from 2:00-4:00 pm, Deidre Davis Butler. Deidre is an attorney, advocate and disability rights expert. For forty years, she has been working for equal access with and for persons with disabilities. Deidre has helped craft, implement and enforce disability rights and equal employment laws. Her areas of expertise include the Air Carrier Access Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Fair Housing Act. A recognized national and global leader, Deidre has one unique story and perspective on the dynamics of disability. Deidre's eclectic career includes County, State, Federal, International, and Corporate service. Positions held include: Chief of the Federal Independent Living Program (U.S. Dept. of Education), Director of ADA Technical Assistance (U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), Deputy Assistant Secretary for Equal Employment and

Civil Rights (U.S. Department of State). She also served in President Clinton's White House Office of Presidential Personnel. There will also be time for a question and answer session.

Throughout the month, the Center for Independent Living will also be including a "Dear Carolyn" video segment - in the style of "Dear Abby". In fact, participants may also give themselves a fun anonymous nickname if they want! Participants can email Carolyn at [marketing@cil-drc.org](mailto:marketing@cil-drc.org) anything they want to know about the Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida, disability rights, or Carolyn herself. She will read approximately 4-6 letters each video.

As part of this new online campaign, the Center for Independent Living will also celebrate the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** by recognizing members of our community who are leaders, advocates, and volunteers.

The Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida provides education, advocacy and other services to promote equality, access and inclusion for people with disabilities whose goal is to live independently. They proudly reach people in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton Counties. Their online campaign will provide an opportunity to educate community members about the importance of a society that embraces full inclusion for **all** people and will highlight the history of the CIL's role.

By participating in this event, you show your support for the Americans with Disabilities Act, which is (in President George Bush's words) "the world's first comprehensive declaration of the equality of people with disabilities and evidence of America's leadership internationally in the cause of human rights".

To get involved, please join the Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida from July 1st-31st on their [Facebook page](#). If you have any questions, please contact the Center by email at [marketing@cil-drc.org](mailto:marketing@cil-drc.org) or by phone 850-595-5566.

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For more information, please visit [www.cil-drc.org](http://www.cil-drc.org) or visit CIL on Facebook.