

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Ph: Home () _____

Other () _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to: BIASC

_____ Brain Injury Survivor \$25*

_____ Family Member \$25*

_____ Professionals \$50

_____ TBI Service Providers \$100

_____ Corporations/Firms \$150

_____ Silver Circle \$250

_____ Gold Circle \$500

_____ Platinum Circle \$1000

_____ Patron \$1500

_____ Friends of the BIASC \$ _____
(over \$1500)

*\$5 minimum for individual with brain injury/families with financial hardship

Our Services:

Support Groups: These are forums for emotional support and educational presentations. Contact BIASC for current locations.

Information: BIASC is able to provide information about brain injury via phone, website, newsletters and an onsite Resource Library.

Education and Advocacy: The BIASC supports statewide and regional conferences on brain injury for families and persons with brain injury, as well as professionals. Educational efforts also include local and state governmental agencies and service providers.

Prevention: BIASC supports prevention initiatives through public schools and communities throughout the state.



Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 21523
Columbia, SC 29221

Physical Location:
800 Dutch Square Boulevard
Suite B-225
Columbia, SC 29210

Phone: 803-731-9823
Help-Line: 1-877-TBI-FACT(In-state)
Fax: 803-731-4804
Email: scbraininjury@bellsouth.net
Website: www.biausa.org/SC



**BRAIN INJURY
ALLIANCE**

of South Carolina

Providing information
about brain injury and support
to individuals and
their families

Mission: Creating a better future
through brain injury prevention, research,
education and advocacy

www.biausa.org/SC

BRAIN INJURY ...

Currently, 108,000 South Carolinians have a disability as a result of a traumatic brain injury. However, because brain injury is a health issue that the media rarely spotlights, most South Carolinians know little about what it is or how it impacts the brain injured and their families.

WHAT IS A BRAIN INJURY?

Injury to the brain that occurs after birth is referred to as an **Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)**. These injuries occur in a number of ways. The most common is **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**: an insult to the brain caused by an external physical force. TBI can result from motor vehicle accidents, falls, abuse, and sports-related injuries. Brain injuries can also occur as a result of stroke, anoxia (lack of oxygen to the brain), seizure disorders, certain infectious diseases, and toxic exposure.

IMPACT OF BRAIN INJURY

Regardless of the cause, brain injury can cause a wide range of functional changes affecting thinking, sensation, language, and/or emotions.

Impact on the Injured Individual

A person who has experienced a brain injury faces varying degrees of mental, physical, and emotional changes.

Cognitive changes: Common problems include difficulty with memory (short or long-term) and concentration. Often these individuals encounter problems communicating ideas, processing information, and initiating actions. As a result, the person may have difficulty in attempts to return to school or work.

Physical changes: Persons with a brain injury may notice both motor and sensory changes. Some of the more prevalent changes include decreased eye-hand coordination, weakness on one side, balance problems, and fatigue. These changes can impact ability to move around the home or community independently.

Emotional and behavioral changes: Emotional changes can occur as a direct result of injury to the brain or as a result of the situation the injured now find themselves in. Depression, anger, impulsivity, and withdrawal are common problems. These changes in personality may affect the person's ability to interact appropriately with both family and community.

Impact on family: Like other serious health issues, brain injury affects the family of the injured. At the onset, most are totally uninformed about brain injury and anxious about what the future holds. They find themselves searching frantically for information.

THE NEED TO KNOW MORE

After a brain injury, questions regarding recovery, long-term effects, and coping mechanisms are common. Families need information about brain injury, its consequences, and resources in their community and around the state. Both persons with brain injury and their families can benefit from talking with others who have been through similar situations. The Brain Injury Alliance of South Carolina can help by providing general information about brain injury as well as by connecting these families to others who have had similar experiences.

BRAIN INJURY ALLIANCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Brain Injury Alliance of South Carolina (BIASC) was developed by persons with brain injury, their families, and concerned professionals in an effort to provide information and support to those who have experienced a brain injury.

The BIASC is our state's chartered affiliate of the national Brain Injury Association of America. Together, our mission is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy.