

# Individual Justice Planning

An Individual Justice Plan (IJP) is a valuable tool which may be used proactively and reactively to assist individuals with disabilities in navigating the world of disabilities and criminal justice. An IJP identifies the individual's disability as well as supports and services designed to prevent justice involvement or further justice involvement, while still holding the individual accountable for their behavior by using the most effective consequence for the individual to maximize potential for success.

An Individual Justice Plan (IJP) is a voluntary plan intended for:

1. Individuals whose disability can manifest behavior that looks criminal.
2. Individuals whose disability in some way limits their ability to interact with and obtain a fair result from the criminal/juvenile justice system.

## Who's Involved in Developing an IJP?

An IJP is centered around the youth or adult who is at risk of justice system involvement or who is already involved with the justice system. IJPs may be initiated by anyone including family members, guardians, health professionals, human service workers, service providers, education professionals, law enforcement officers, attorneys, judicial officers, parole/probation officers, and others. Once the need for an IJP is identified, the individual and their team will create the IJP and set parameters for ongoing review and oversight.



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Please contact Protection and Advocacy if you need an alternative format

## How Does an IJP Work?

The IJP is a collaborative process resulting in identification and documentation of the individual's disability as well as the least restrictive and most effective services that should be implemented for the youth or adult. These can range from positive behavioral supports to case management to incarceration. The IJP should also identify disability-related accommodations to ensure meaningful participation in the justice process and a fair outcome.

## When Should an IJP Be Created?

Identifying the need for an IJP at the individual's earliest point or potential point of contact with the justice system is crucial to limit the individual's involvement. However, an IJP can be initiated at any time, even upon re-entry into the community.

## Why Are IJP's Important?

- IJPs ease burdens on the criminal justice system.
- IJPs ensure accountability and appropriate consequences for the individual's behavior after consideration of the disability.
- IJPs support individuals with disabilities to live successfully in their communities.

## Additional Resources

[Individual Justice Plan \(IJP\) Manual](#)

[P&A Individual Justice Planning Resources](#)

