

ND PROTECTION & ADVOCACY PROJECT

INDIVIDUAL JUSTICE PLAN (IJP)

What is an Individual Justice Plan (IJP)?

An Individual Justice Plan (IJP) is a voluntary plan intended for individuals whose disability can manifest behavior that looks criminal, and individuals whose disability in some way limits his or her ability to interact with and obtain a fair result from the criminal justice/juvenile justice system. An IJP will identify the individual's disability as well as specific supports and services designed to prevent justice involvement or further justice involvement while still holding the individual accountable for his or her behavior using a "least restrictive" consideration. This means implementing the most effective consequence for the individual to maximize the potential for success.

Who is involved with IJPs?

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 who encounters the youth or adult. This includes family members, guardians, health professionals, human service workers, service providers, education professionals, law enforcement officers, attorneys, judicial officers, and parole/probation officers, among others. Once the need for an IJP is identified, a team of support persons, along with the individual, will create the Plan and set parameters for ongoing Plan review and oversight.

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 Plan should also identify needed accommodations for the individual's disability(ies) to ensure that he or she can meaningfully participate in the justice process and receive a fair result.

This handout is for informational purposes and is not legal advice.

Identifying the need for an IJP at the individual's earliest point of contact 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 stage of the criminal justice system, even upon re-entry into the community.

What does an IJP look like?

Sample IJPs and an IJP template can be found in the [Individual Justice Plan \(IJP\) manual](#) at Protection & Advocacy's website. The IJP Manual explains the process in further detail and contains contact information for persons who may be able to provide support or services as part of the IJP process.

Why are IJPs important?

An Individual Justice Plan (IJP) is a valuable tool which may be used proactively and reactively by individuals with disabilities, their families, schools, law enforcement, courts, and other entities or systems to assist individuals with disabilities in navigating the world of disabilities and criminal justice. IJPs help secure accountability and appropriate consequences for the individual's behavior after consideration of an individual's disability(ies). This can ease burdens on the criminal justice systems while also supporting individuals with disabilities to live successfully within their communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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If you need this handout in an alternative format, please contact the Protection & Advocacy Project.

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