CRIMINAL JUSTICE

FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In the field of Criminal Justice, the Institute on Disabilities provides the following on a national, state and local level:

- Training for law enforcement, the judiciary, victim service and disability service providers, family members, people with disabilities, educators, and medical professionals
- Technical assistance to law enforcement, the judiciary, victim service and disability service providers, family members, educators, and medical professionals.
- Research, conducting studies and disseminate findings, about people with disabilities as victims, witness and defendants.

WHY THIS WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE:

- Crimes against adults with developmental and other disabilities are a problem similar to violence against women, child abuse, and elder abuse.
- Studies consistently show that the level of major crimes against adults with disabilities is 4-10 times higher then against people without disabilities.
- Children with any type of disability are 2 times more likely to be a victim of any type of child maltreatment than children without disabilities.
- Crimes against people with developmental and other disabilities are reported and prosecuted at a much lower rate than crimes against people without disabilities.
- Defendants with intellectual disabilities and other cognitive disabilities often unwittingly waive their rights and confess to crimes they do not commit.
- Defendants with intellectual disabilities and other cognitive disabilities are frequently given longer sentences than people without disabilities.

DESPITE THESE DISTURBING TRENDS, THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE REMAINS LARGELY INVISIBLE AND UNADDRESSED.

Federal and State Grant funded Programs:

- National Academy for Equal Justice for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Equal Justice for People with Mental Retardation
- End the Silence – Partners in Justice
- Equal Justice for People with Developmental Disabilities

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