Resources During Incarceration
For inmates in King County jails

This guide provides information about resources available to inmates before they are released from jail. The AVID Jail Project hopes this guide will help current inmates with disabilities identify organizations and agencies they can contact to address concerns about jail conditions or other issues arising during their incarceration.

This is a publication by the AVID Jail Project:
Amplifying Voices of Inmates with Disabilities

AVID is a project of Disability Rights Washington, an independent, private, non-profit organization designated as Washington’s protection and advocacy agency, and mandated to protect the rights of people with disabilities statewide. DRW’s mission is to advance the dignity, equality, and self-determination of people with disabilities.

www.disabilityrightswa.org
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Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to help people with disabilities who are currently incarcerated in King County jails identify outside resources they can access to address concerns about jail conditions or other issues arising during their incarceration. These resources do not replace jail kite and grievance policies.

This guide is divided into four sections:

1. Disability Rights Information and Referrals;
2. Legal Services;
3. Complaint Resolution; and
4. Identity-Specific Resources.

The organizations listed under each section have confirmed to the AVID Jail Project that they provide assistance to current inmates and that they accept collect calls or letters from inmates. The AVID Jail Project identifies which providers accept collect calls from correctional facilities with the following symbols:

- **Accepts collect calls**
- **Does not accept collect calls**

Generally inmates are unable to dial 1-800 numbers from jail.

This information is current as of February 2017, after which point it may have changed. Please contact the AVID Jail Project at the contact information listed for Disability Rights Washington, below, if you believe any of the information provided is out of date.

Disability Rights Information and Referrals

**Disability Rights Washington (DRW)**

DRW provides referrals, information, and support for self-advocacy, as well as limited legal representation to individuals with disabilities throughout the State of Washington, including individuals who are currently incarcerated in jails and prisons.

- **Call:** (206) 324-1521
- **Write:** Disability Rights Washington
  AVID
  315 5th Ave. S., Suite 850
  Seattle, WA 98104
  LEGAL MAIL
Legal Services

**Columbia Legal Services (CLS)**

CLS provides representation on a limited basis to low-income people who are confined or reside in institutions in Washington State, including jails and prisons. CLS is able to accept few cases, and those usually involve civil rights or conditions of confinement issues (abuse, neglect, lack of medical care, use of segregation or restraints, etc.). CLS does not handle criminal cases. CLS prefers written requests for assistance.

Call: (206) 382-3399  
Write: Columbia Legal Services  
Institutions Project  
101 Yesler Way, Suite 300  
Seattle, WA 98104  
LEGAL MAIL

**Incarcerated Parents Project**

The Incarcerated Parents Project assists dependency attorneys, criminal defense attorneys, individuals, and advocates working to help incarcerated parents maintain contact with their children or access reproductive health services. Incarcerated parents whose children have been removed from their care by Child Protective Services (CPS) can ask their dependency attorney and/or public defender to contact the Incarcerated Parents Project at the Washington Defender Association. The Incarcerated Parents Project may be able to provide guidance on how to best support reunification efforts and protect parental rights. Parents who are experiencing communication problems with their attorney can contact the Incarcerated Parents Project directly for support in self-advocacy and addressing their concerns.

Incarcerated parents may wish to ask their dependency attorney or public defender to call:  
(206) 623-4321 ext. 105  
or to find more information at [www.defensenet.org/ipp](http://www.defensenet.org/ipp).

If an inmate is experiencing communication difficulties with their dependency attorney and public defender, they may write to the Incarcerated Parents Project directly at:

Ms. D’Adre Cunningham  
Incarcerated Parents Project Attorney  
Washington Defender Association  
110 Prefontaine Pl. S., Suite 610  
Seattle, WA 98104  
LEGAL MAIL
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Washington
The ACLU of Washington does not offer direct legal services to individuals but may provide “know your rights” information and legal fact sheets about jail and prison conditions, practices, and re-entry issues.

Call:     (206) 624-2180
Write:   ACLU of Washington
         901 5th Ave., Suite 630
         Seattle, WA 98164
LEGAL MAIL

King County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service
The King County Bar Association’s Lawyer Referral Service makes referrals for individuals who wish to hire an attorney. The service does not make referrals for people who need free legal services. The cost to hire a referred attorney is $250 - $500 per hour. For a small administrative fee, people will receive a specialized referral to an attorney and a free 30-minute consultation. The Lawyer Referral Service can provide referrals for attorneys practicing in almost any area of law, including family law, disability benefits, and criminal defense.

Call:   (206) 267-7010
Write:   King County Bar Association
         Lawyer Referral Service
         1200 5th Ave., Suite 600
         Seattle, WA 98101
LEGAL MAIL

Parent 4 Parent Program (P4P)
P4P is a program to help parents whose children have been removed from their care by Child Protective Services (CPS) or whose children are in an in-home dependency. The program connects parents to "Parent Allies" (parents who have been through the juvenile dependency court system before). Parent Allies provide mentorship, emotional support, and information about resources to help parents understand what they must do to successfully reunite with their children.

P4P can meet with parents while they are incarcerated at King County Jail (either King County Correctional Facility or the Regional Justice Center).

Call:      (206) 477-2566
Write:   If a parent has an open CPS case, they can send a white kite to Programs with a request to contact the Parent 4 Parent Coordinator.
Complaint Resolution

**King County Ombudsman’s Office**
If inmates have a serious complaint about a King County agency, including King County Jail (King County Correctional Facility and the Regional Justice Center) or Jail Health Services, the Ombudsman’s office may be able to help resolve the issue. Provide the Ombudsman’s Office with as many details about the complaint as possible, including the time, date, and location of the incident and the names of any officers, inmates, or witnesses involved. See the King County Jail Inmate Information Handbook for more information about the scope of the Ombudsman’s services.

Before contacting the Ombudsman’s Office, the inmate should first try to resolve their complaint or concern directly with the jail through the kite or grievance process, unless they feel that doing so might put them in danger or it is a medical emergency.

Call: (206) 477-1051  
Write: King County Ombudsman’s Office  
516 3rd Ave., Room W-1039  
Seattle, WA 98104  
KCC-CC-1039  
LEGAL MAIL

The King County Ombudsman’s Office cannot address complaints regarding SCORE or any city jails.

**King County Office of Civil Rights (OCR)**
The King County OCR has authority to accept and investigate discrimination complaints against King County agencies, including King County Jail (King County Correctional Facility and the Regional Justice Center) or Jail Health Services. People may submit complaints regarding disability access (referred to by OCR as a disability grievance) and regarding discrimination based on race, color, national origin, or sex (referred to by OCR as a Title VI complaint).

Call: (206) 263-2446

If no one is available to take your call, leave a message on the message line at (206) 205-5248. Inmates should enter their PIN number and, when asked for the number they want to dial, they should press 24#. In their message, inmates may wish to give their name, booking number, and a detailed message about their disability or Title VI complaint.
The King County Office of Civil Rights cannot address complaints regarding SCORE or any city jails.

**Washington State Department of Health**

The Department of Health is responsible for reviewing all complaints and reports about healthcare providers and facilities it regulates.

A complaint against a health care professional or facility may concern:

1. the provider’s ability to practice with reasonable skill and safety;
2. unprofessional conduct; or
3. unlicensed practice.

Health care professionals include, but are not limited to, doctors, doctor’s assistants, nurses, nurse’s assistants, pharmacists, psychologists, mental health counselors, and occupational therapists. Health care facilities include jails, prisons, and psychiatric hospitals, among others. For more information, contact DRW to request a copy of its publication on *How to File a Complaint Against a Health Care Provider or Facility* and for a complaint form.

If an inmate wishes to file a complaint against a health care provider in a jail, they must identify an individual provider either by name or description. If the inmate is unable to identify an individual provider, they may wish to file their complaint against the director of health or mental health services at the jail. Inmates may wish to call or write to the Department of Health to request a complaint form.

**Washington State Bar Association (WSBA)**

The WSBA’s Office of Disciplinary Counsel reviews grievances (complaints) against lawyers for unethical conduct. Before filing a grievance, clients should try to resolve their dispute with their lawyer directly. Contact the WSBA beforehand with any concerns about the
grievance process. For more information about communicating with attorneys and resolving conflicts, contact DRW to request a copy of its publication on *Working with a Public Defender in Criminal Cases*. Inmates may wish to call or write to WSBA to request a complaint form.

**Call:** (206) 727-8207  
**Write:** Washington State Bar Association  
1325 4th Ave., Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98101  
LEGAL MAIL

**Commission on Judicial Conduct**  
The Commission on Judicial Conduct investigates complaints of judicial misconduct (judges). Inmates may wish to call or write to the Commission on Judicial Conduct request a complaint form.

**Call:** (360) 753-4585  
**Write:** Commission on Judicial Conduct  
P.O. Box 1817  
Olympia, WA 98507  
LEGAL MAIL

**Identity-Specific Resources**

**Incarcerated Veterans’ Reintegration Services (IVRS)**

IVRS staff may help incarcerated veterans develop a case plan and accompany the veteran to court in order to advocate for alternative sentencing, sentence reduction, or early release so the veteran can start a treatment program.

Once the veteran is released from jail, IVRS staff may provide services such as:

- Emergency financial assistance
- Mental health and trauma counseling
- Employment and skills training assistance
- Temporary, transitional, and permanent housing
- Other referral services as necessary.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Honorable, Medical, or General Under Honorable Conditions Discharge
- 181 days of active duty service before September 6, 1980, or 24 months of consecutive active duty service after September 6, 1980, or completion of first term of service
- No present charges or past convictions of felony “strike” crimes, including but not limited to arson and sex offenses
People incarcerated in King County Jail (King County Correctional Facility or the Regional Justice Center) may contact the program by sending a white kite to Veterans’ Services (ask for Incarcerated Veterans’ Reintegration Services), by mail, or by telephone.

People incarcerated at other jails in King County may contact the program via mail or telephone.

Call:    (877) 904-8387
Write: Incarcerated Veterans’ Reintegration Services
               2106 2nd Ave., Suite 100
                Seattle, WA 98121

Black and Pink

Black and Pink is a collective of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) prisoners and “free world” allies who support each other through advocacy, education, and organizing. The Black and Pink Newspaper is distributed free of charge to LGBTQ prisoners around the country. Each issue contains submissions from incarcerated members, along with relevant news and history. Black and Pink also facilitates a pen-pal program for LGBTQ prisoners.

To request the Black and Pink Newspaper, write to:
   Black and Pink National Office
       614 Columbia Rd.
       Dorchester, MA 02125

For local resources, a pen-pal, or support starting a chapter on the inside, write to:
   Black and Pink Seattle-Tacoma Chapter
       P.O. Box 1099
       Seattle, WA 98111
This information is a service of Disability Rights Washington (DRW). It provides general information as a public service only, and is not legal advice. If you need legal advice, you should contact an attorney. You do not have an attorney-client relationship with DRW. Always advocate in a timely manner. Please be aware that there are certain time limits or deadlines to file a complaint, a lawsuit, or take legal action.

To receive this information in an alternative format, such as large print or Braille, please call DRW at the number above.

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Disability Rights was formerly known as Washington Protection and Advocacy System. Disability Rights Washington is a member of the National Disability Rights Network. A significant portion of the Disability Rights Washington budget is federally funded. To learn more about Disability Rights Washington visit www.DisabilityRightsWA.org.

This information is current as of February 2017.