



Supporting DDD Members in the Justice System

There may be times when DDD members come in contact with the justice system. While no one's journey is the same, resources are available when this occurs. Members in custody have the right to be treated fairly. This means they can get help ensuring their civil rights are protected and that any Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) needs are met.

Here are some things you can do when a DDD member is arrested:

Call the Support Coordinator. The Support Coordinator can share additional support or resources to navigate the situation. The Support Coordinator may ask for written permission from the responsible person to speak with the detention center. The DDD Support Coordinator will contact a Division Justice Liaison. They will work with the Support Coordinator to help the member get their needs met while in custody. The DDD Justice Liaison's role includes:

- Inform the detention facility medical staff that the person receives services from DDD.
- Obtaining a signed release of information (ROI) from the most recent DDD file.
- Obtaining a current list of the member's medical needs.
- Providing guardianship paperwork if applicable.
- Participating as part of the member's Release Team.
- Assisting the Release Team to ensure the member's ALTCS medical benefits and Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) are in place at the time of their release, if eligible.

Legal Considerations:

- The Division cannot provide legal guidance.
- Families should seek legal counsel for advice. The [Division's Community Resource Guide](#) includes details about low-cost and no-cost legal help.
- If the member has a guardian, the court may request documents related to guardianship.

When the member enters custody, let the facility know:

- If the member has any medications or healthcare needs, including pregnancy. For some people, going without their medication can be dangerous.
- If the member must take a name-brand medication (versus a generic).
- How the member communicates (examples may include limited or no English, sounds, sign language, or an augmentative communication device)
- If the member uses hearing aids or glasses.
- If the member uses any medical equipment or has an implantable device (e.g., pacemaker)
- If the member utilizes a service animal.

Other Considerations:

- Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) eligibility will be paused while the member is in custody. ALTCS benefits will resume when they are released.
- A meeting will be held before the member is released. The team will discuss what support is needed for the member to safely return home.
- Cancel or reschedule any upcoming in-home services, rides, or doctor appointments.
- Inform the member's job, day program, or school.
- The assigned DDD Justice Liaison will contact the member's DDD Health Plan to coordinate care while the member is in custody.

Concerned about future interactions with law enforcement?

- Inform local law enforcement about the member's communication methods, disability, and other relevant details by notifying the local precinct.
- Add a "Communication Accommodation" or participate in the Blue Envelope program through the [Motor Vehicle Division](#) if they have an Arizona Driver's License or ID card.
- Consider the Medallion Program if the member has trouble communicating. Learn more about the [DDD Medallion Program](#) online.
- Speak with your Support Coordinator if the member has behavioral health needs.
- The Division provides training to statewide law enforcement agencies titled "Understanding Builds Trust: I/DD and the Justice System". It focuses on safe interactions between first responders and people with disabilities. If you are a first responder and would like to know how to access this training, contact dddcommunityengagement@azdes.gov.
- 988 is an option to consider when a member is having a behavioral health crisis. 988 is the line to access crisis services. Learn more about 988 on the [ADHS website](#).

Other Resources:

- DDD After-Hours Phone Number: 855-375-1433
- DDD Medallion Program: dddmedallionprogam@azdes.gov
- UHCCP Justice Program Inbox
 - Adult Justice AZ: adultjusticeaz@uhc.com
 - Juvenile Justice AZ: juvenilejusticeAZ@uhc.com
- Mercy Care Justice Liaisons
 - Adult Court Liaisons: adultcourtliaisons@mercycareaz.org
 - Juvenile Court Liaisons: JuvenileCourtLiaisons@MercyCareAZ.org

Language help is available at no cost to you. Call the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1, TTY/TDD 711, to ask for this material in other formats.

La ayuda en otros idiomas está disponible sin costo alguno para usted. Llame al Centro de atención al cliente de la DDD al 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1, TTY/TDD 711, para solicitar este material en otros formatos.

Equal Opportunity Employer / Program • Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities • To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy, contact the Division of Developmental Disabilities Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500; TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1 • Disponible en español en línea o en la oficina local DDD-2394A ELYENG (06/26)