

Creating Pathways to Justice® for Victims with Disabilities

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Who We Are

- The Arc

Promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

- The Board Resource Center

Contributes to the inclusion and self-determination of persons with diverse abilities in decision-making, self and peer advocacy, and governance activities.



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Introduction to NCCJD®

NCCJD's Goal:

Build the capacity of the criminal justice system to respond to gaps in services and supports for people with disabilities, focusing on people with I/DD.

thearc.org/NCCJD



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Pathways to Justice® and Disability Response Teams



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Talk About Sexual Violence

Easy-to-use training tools for Health Care Providers

- Increase patient-centered conversations
- Increase reporting
- Decrease discomfort talking about sexual violence with women with I/DD



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James



Kecia



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Kecia's Story

What were the missed opportunities to serve Kecia better?



Law enforcement



Social work

Pathways to Justice® Training Program

- Community living can lead to criminal justice involvement
 - Victims, witnesses, suspects/defendants, incarcerated persons
- Disabilities are often invisible or unrecognized by criminal justice professionals



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Pathways to Justice® Training Program

People are unable to protect their own rights

Victims:

- Not considered credible witnesses
- Targeted for victimization
- Difficulties reporting
- Confuse actions for friendship
- Lack of inclusive services

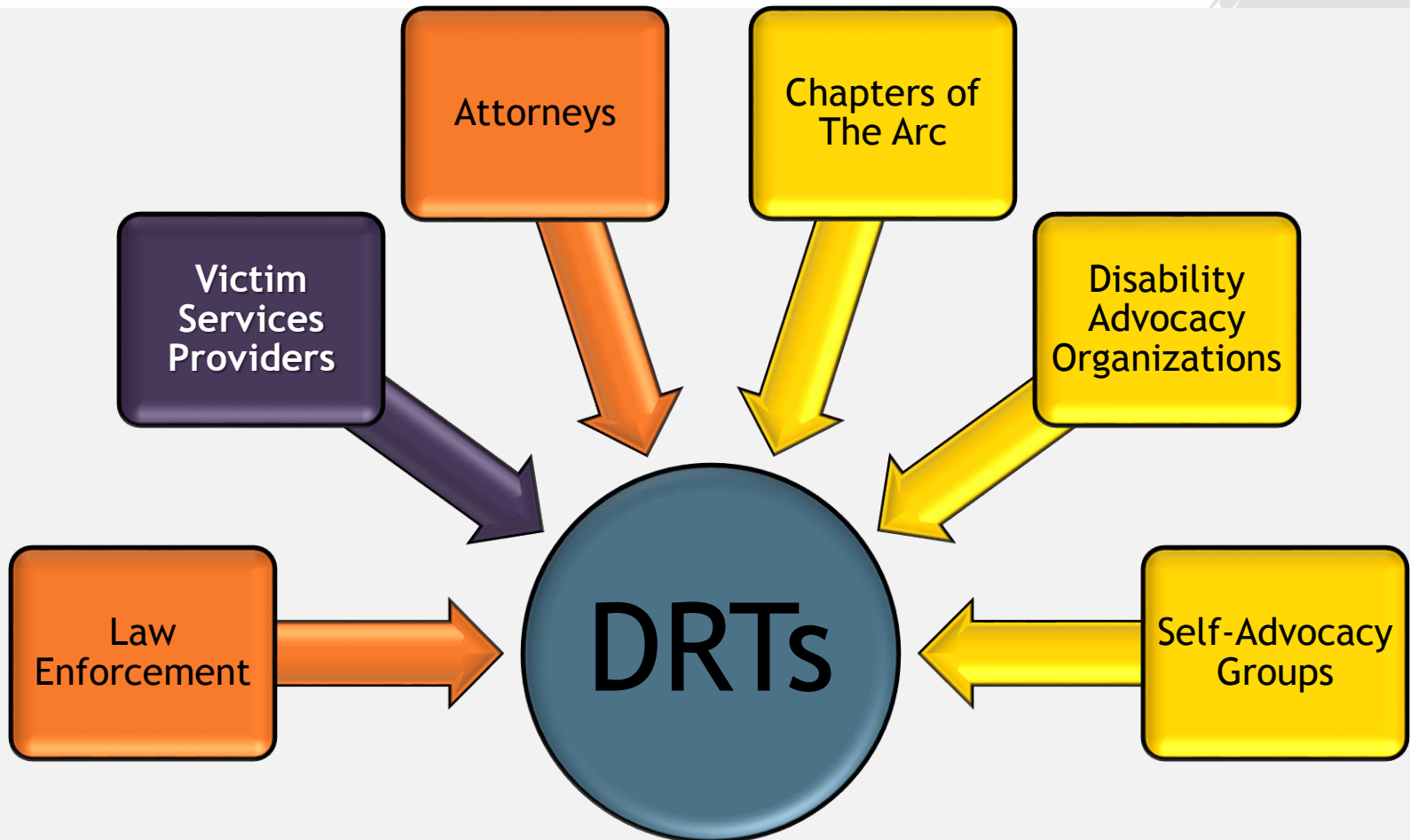


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Disability Response Teams (DRTs)

Multidisciplinary Teams of Criminal Justice Professionals and Disability Advocates



Pathways to Justice®

DRT Roles:

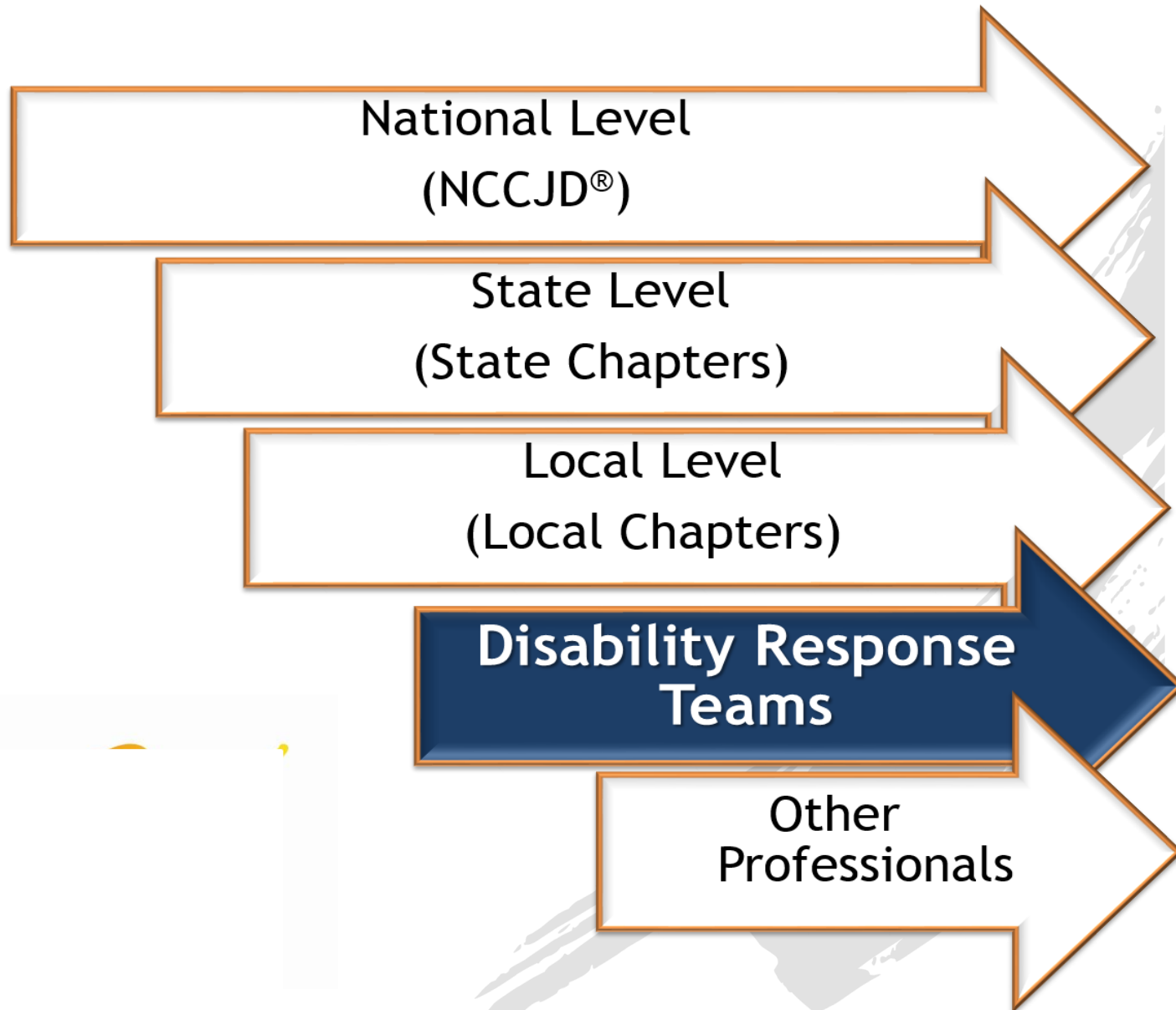
- Increase awareness and debunk myths
- Help professionals identify disabilities
- Help provide supports/accommodations
- Create/sustain/refer to local resources
- Sustain training efforts



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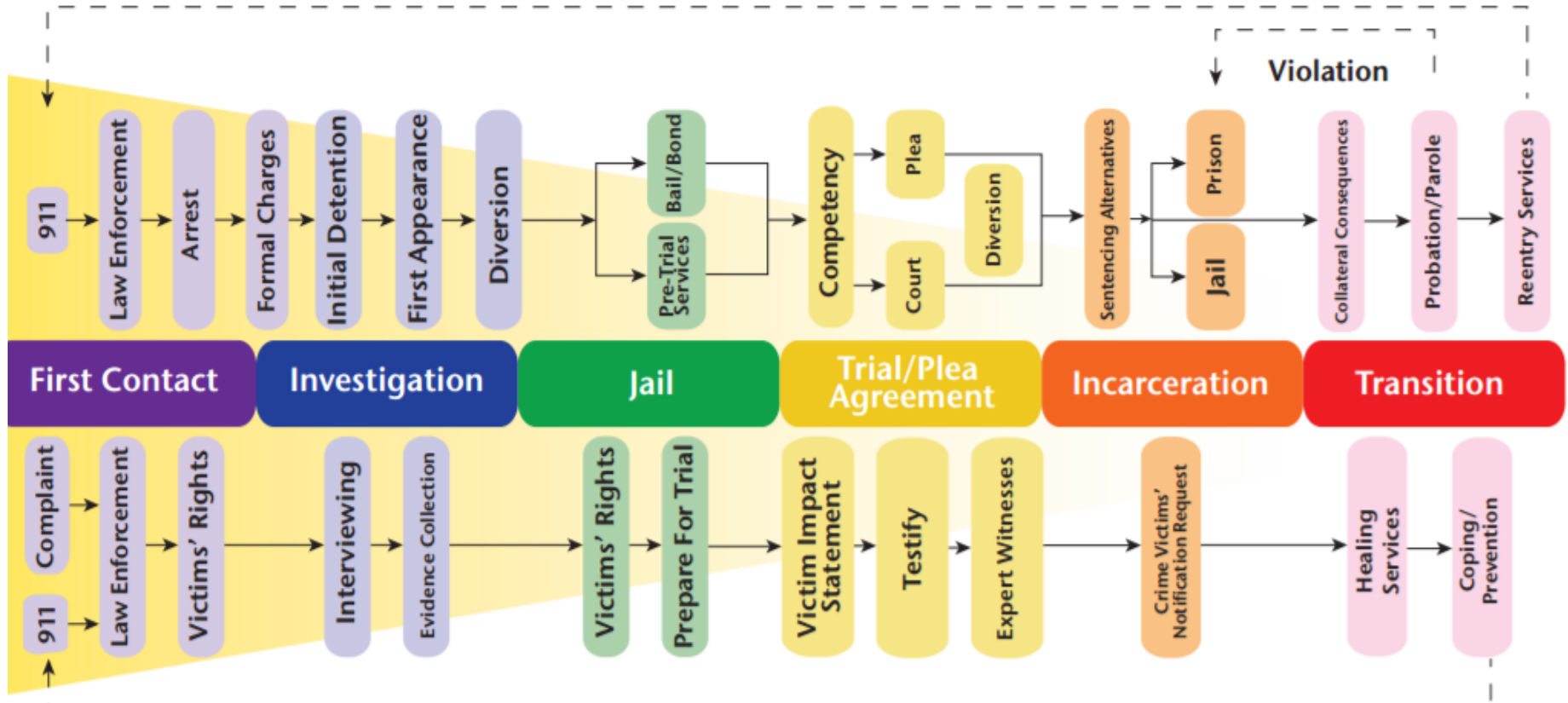
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Disability Response Teams



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Pathways to Justice® Model





First Contact

- Complaint
- Law Enforcement
- Victims' Rights

Investigation

- Interview
- Evidence Collection



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Key Messages

- All people are different and should be valued
- Accommodations are often required
- Supports are needed to have equal access
- Everyone has a role to play!



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Talk About Sexual Violence

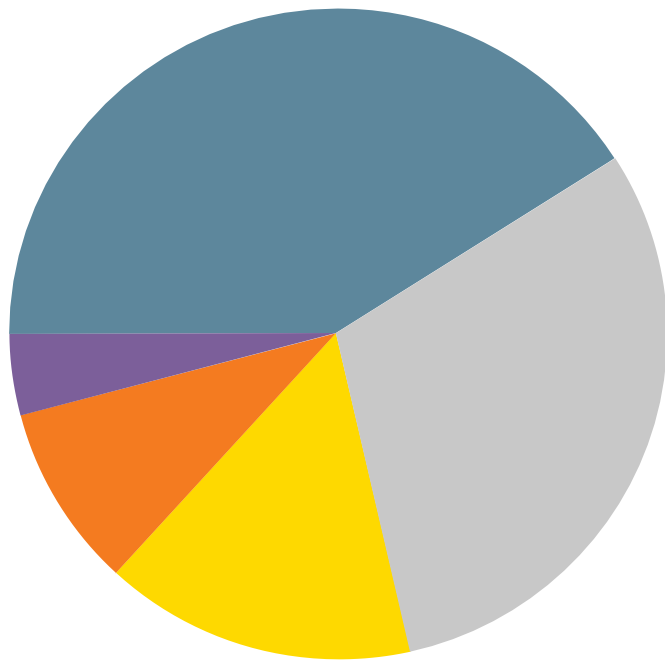


Rates of Serious Crimes

Violent crime (rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) for persons with disabilities (12.7 per 1,000)

- More than three times the rate for persons without disabilities (4.0 per 1,000)
- Persons with cognitive disabilities had the highest rates (57.9 per 1,000)

Relationship to Offender



- Acquaintance
 - Intimate partner
 - Other relative
 - Stranger
 - Unknown
- 66%
- 34%

Project Elements



- Two videos and website
- Training materials
- Online resources
- National dissemination
- National and State Conferences

Project Advisors

- (3) Survivors of sexual assault
- (3) Physicians
- (1) Health management leader
- (2) APS Program Liaison/IHSS
- (3) Care Providers and family member
- (2) Case Managers/Social Workers
- (1) Training Specialist



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How to Have the Conversation



www.talkaboutsexualviolence.org



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Kecia meets with her Doctor



www.talkaboutsexualviolence.org



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Early Outcomes

- Case Management and APS MOU
- Abuse prevention workshops at state conference
- Abuse Prevention Statewide Network
Silence = Violence
- Kecia influencing Legislation
Hate crimes against people with disabilities
Protection on public transportation



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Recommendations Advisory Group

- Educate HCPs about being mandated reporters
- Engage APS and victims' right organizations
- Make presentations at professional conferences
- Initiate MOUs between APS and agencies
- Conduct safety training at peer advocacy groups



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Key Message

Value each person's experience



Listen

Provide supports

Maintain contact with the person



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James and Kecia



People with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve a life free from abuse. Abuse is too often ignored or excused.



Join the conversation, talk about sexual violence and end the silent epidemic of abuse!



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Questions

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