



Arlington Disability and Justice System Coalition (DJSC)

AN OVERVIEW

Mission Statement

The Arlington Disability and Justice System Coalition (DJSC) is a diverse, collaborative county-wide coalition focused on reforming the developmental disability (DD) community's interactions with the criminal justice system and creating the most inclusive community possible.

Our Goals, Strategies, & Values

We are focused on:

- ▶ 1. Proactively creating training, tools, partnerships, and resources to help first responders, attorneys, and court professionals identify people with developmental disabilities and adapt their interactions to meet the needs of those individuals with a focus on safety for all.
- ▶ 2. Responding to the needs of people with developmental disabilities in the criminal justice system, including connecting them and their support teams with vital resources and partners.
- ▶ 3. Recognizing and promoting that the Courts and criminal justice system are not the best mechanisms for people with developmental disabilities to obtain supports and services and advocating for the least restrictive alternative consistent with public safety.

Our Members/Stakeholders

The Arlington DJSC is comprised of members from across the criminal justice system, including:

- ▶ 911 Call Center (ECC)
- ▶ Fire/EMS
- ▶ Law Enforcement: Police Department and Sheriff's Office
- ▶ Magistrates
- ▶ Victim-Witness Advocates
- ▶ Prosecutors (Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney)
- ▶ Defense Lawyers (Office of the Public Defender)
- ▶ Court Personnel: Judges, Clerk's Office, Court Services
- ▶ Probation Offices
- ▶ Department of Human Services/Community Services Board
- ▶ Family Advocates
- ▶ Self-Advocates
- ▶ Advocacy Groups (The Arc of Nova, Advocacy Partners, The Arc of Loudoun)