

FACT SHEET



T – (02) 9318 0144 | F – (02) 9318 2887 | ABN- 11 216 371 524 | W – www.idrs.org.au

About CJSN

The Criminal Justice Support Network (CJSN) is a disability advocacy service of the Intellectual Disability Rights Service Inc (IDRS.)

CJSN provides volunteer support persons for people with intellectual disability who are in contact with the criminal justice system. We help people with intellectual disability who are defendants, witnesses or victims.

A person with intellectual disability who has been arrested has the legal right to have a support person present at the police station. Unfortunately, this right is not always upheld. CJSN provides a support person and links the person to free legal advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To get police station support for someone at a police station after hours, call 1300 665 908

We assist people by attending the police station where they have been arrested and help them to understand and exercise their legal rights, stay calm and get them legal advice from a lawyer specially trained in communicating with people with intellectual disability.

We can help victims of crime to report offences to police.

We provide court support to enable the client to understand what is happening and make informed decisions. Trained support persons are available in:

- Sydney metro area
- Illawarra/ Shoalhaven and Goulburn Office
- Central Coast
- Hunter region
- NSW mid-north coast (Port Macquarie)
- Central West (Bathurst, Orange, Mudgee, Dubbo, Parkes)
- Riverina (Wagga Wagga) area

Our Outreach Co-ordinator, based in our Sydney office, can give assistance by telephone and can often arrange for a support person in other regional areas of NSW.

A support person can also help a person with intellectual disability at other venues where they are in contact with the criminal justice system, including Juvenile Justice conferences, Forum Sentencing and appointments with Probation and Parole and Mental Health Review Tribunal Hearings.

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What we do and how we support clients

A trained support person is allocated to the client and can:

- Help the client to understand what is being said and assist them in communicating with other parties
- Assist the client in understanding their rights and advocating for those rights to be upheld
- Help the client's solicitor to communicate with the person in plain language to ensure they understand what is happening and what their choices are
- Encourage and assist the person to appropriately contribute to proceedings
- Provide emotional support to clients during and after proceedings
- Ensure the client understands outcomes and conditions (for example, bail or AVO conditions) they must comply with to avoid further trouble
- Help the client to complete any necessary paperwork

CJSN contact details

<u>Sydney (Head Office)</u>	<u>Illawarra/Shoalhaven</u>	<u>Hunter</u>	<u>Outreach</u>
PO Box 3347 Redfern NSW 2016	PO Box 5460 Wollongong NSW 2500	Suite 4B, 1st Floor, Hunter Unions Building, 406 - 408 King Street, Newcastle, NSW 2300	c/o Sydney office PO Box 3347 Redfern NSW 2016
Tel (02) 9318 0144 Fax (02) 9318 2887	Tel (02) 4228 4040 Fax (02) 4228 4640	Tel (02) 4926 5643 Fax (02) 4927 8147	Tel (02) 9318 0144 Free Call- 1800 666 611 Fax (02) 9318 2887
Sydney Coordinators: Jillian McCarthy and Mitch Fraser Jillian@idrs.org.au Mitch@idrs.org.au	Illawarra/Shoalhaven Coordinator: Corinna Nolan Corinna@idrs.org.au	Hunter Coordinator: Kenn Clift Kenn@idrs.org.au	Outreach Officer: Jacqui Gunst Jacqui@idrs.org.au
To obtain a support person and legal advice for a person with intellectual disability who has been arrested, call 1300 665 908 (9AM – 10PM, 7 days a week.)			

CJSN is funded by NSW Department of Family and Community Services, Ageing Disability and Home Care under the Disability Advocacy Program.