

Reentry Legal Services

Overview:

Reentry Legal Services (RLS) is a DOC contract to provide civil legal services to disabled and mentally ill offenders. Eligible inmates at participating facilities can retain a public benefits attorney who will assist with public benefits applications including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Attorneys will follow clients' cases into the community after release from prison and continue to advocate for benefits until appeals are exhausted or benefits are achieved.

RLS Eligibility includes:

1. Mental Health Code 2A or B
2. Intellectual Disability
3. Low Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) reading score below 6
4. Limited English Proficiency
5. High HSU need
6. Special circumstances referrals (Often, these referrals include individuals with recently-diagnosed, debilitating or terminal illnesses).

DOC generates a list of potentially eligible inmates for RLS staff covering designated facilities who are 6 to 9 months to release. This information is compiled monthly in the release reports available here: [\\docservcap\Groups\ dai \release report](#). The RLS attorney contacts the institution with a list of eligible candidates. If an individual is not on the list but requires special consideration, contact the RLS attorney to discuss a special circumstances referral.

Attorneys will complete a retainer agreement, explain the scope of services, get releases of information signed, facilitate application submissions, and act as authorized representatives. After release, attorneys will continue to advocate for the individual in the community and file reconsiderations and appeals as necessary.

Designated RLS facilities include:

- Columbia Correctional Institution

- Dodge Correctional Institution- Infirmary
- Fox Lake Correctional Institution
- Green Bay Correctional Institution
- Jackson Correctional Institution
- Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution
- Oshkosh Correctional Institution
- Racine Correctional Institution
- Redgranite Correctional Institution
- Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center
- Stanley Correctional Institution
- Taycheedah Correctional Institution
- Wisconsin Resource Center/Wisconsin Women's Resource Center

Social Worker/Treatment Specialist Responsibility:

The social worker or treatment specialist shall meet with eligible inmates and explain benefits of the project. If the inmate is interested, the social worker or treatment specialist shall complete the RLS Attorney Conflict Memo with the inmate and forward to the point of contact for Legal Action of Wisconsin. The social worker or treatment specialist shall maintain communication with the attorney throughout the release planning process, and notify the attorney of any changes to release plans. The social worker or treatment specialist shall notify agent of record of the referral and document/update the application process in COMPAS Notes.

References/Resources:

- Executive Directive 30
- [\\docservcap\Groups\\$\dai\release report](#)
- myDOC RLS Reference Page [Home Page](#) ▶ [Offender Management](#) ▶ [Programs](#) ▶ [Programs Detail](#) ▶ [Reentry Legal Services \(RLS\)](#)